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~~Free public libraries.~~

THE RIVALS: WHICH SHALL IT BE?



29118

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES,

THEIR ORGANISATION, USES,
AND MANAGEMENT.

BY

THOMAS GREENWOOD, F.R.G.S.,

=

AUTHOR OF

"Tour in the States and Canada," "Eminent Naturalists,"
"Half Hour Papers," &c.

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SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.

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PREFACE.



BOOK-HUNGER presents a demand as clear, as definite, as the cry for good drainage and good water, but there is much yet to be done by towns and country districts in supplying this demand for books and wholesome literature to be accessible to the public. It is with an earnest desire to see the Free Libraries' Acts more universally adopted that the author has ventured to treat upon this subject, which is one, when rightly viewed, of national importance. The schoolmaster is at home now, never it is to be hoped to go abroad again, but the increased intelligence of the public has not brought forth a corresponding increase in Free Public Libraries. This is the more surprising as the time has now passed when an elaborate defence of these admirable institutions is required, their many uses having been recognized in towns where the Act has been already adopted.

Revised 11-21-30. 1925 for DF

Books are the legacies that genius leaves to mankind to be delivered down from generation to generation as presents to posterity of those yet unborn, and a town which has the welfare of its inhabitants at heart will seek to place these productions of genius in the varied fields of literature within easy reach of its inhabitants.

Public Libraries and News Rooms never can be wholly or entirely free any more than can water and gas, and it would appear a misnomer to call them "Free," but the term Free Library has a prepossessing sound, and this is why it continues to be used. Simple as is the process by which these Public Libraries can be built, stocked, and maintained, there is a considerable amount of perplexity and confusion as to how to set to work towards the adopting of the Act. The author has sought to clear away some of this doubt, and make the way plain for many other towns and rural districts establishing these admirable institutions.

I am indebted to many librarians for suggestions, but my little work does not seek to be a book of instruction to those in charge of Free Libraries. I hail with delight the growing importance of the Annual Conference of Librarians, for the clear and practical papers read at these gatherings are doing much to interest the public in the work of our Free Libraries. I heartily wish for these Conferences a wide and increasing usefulness.

I acknowledge, with thanks, the kind permission for the use of extracts from Mr. Boosé's paper on "Free Libraries in the Colonies," which recently appeared in the *Library Chronicle*. This paper is edited by Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, who has aided considerably to excite public interest in Free Libraries. Mr. Thomas, in conjunction with Mr. Tedder, has written a most useful article on the subject in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

I also have pleasure in expressing my thanks to Mr. A. Cotgreave, London, librarian of the Wandsworth Public Library, for the practical aid he has given me in the production of this work, particularly such chapters as deal with the inner working of Libraries. Mr. Cotgreave has had many years' experience in connection with Free Public Libraries, and has invented a number of appliances which have greatly facilitated the work in libraries. He has had to do with the commencing, stocking, cataloguing, and working of some four or more Public Libraries, and is a faithful and energetic servant in the cause of Free Libraries.

Lady John Manners has this subject of Free Libraries very much at heart, and her pamphlet on "Some of the Advantages of Easily Accessible Reading and Recreation Rooms and Free Libraries," gives some practical advice on the subject.

I do very sincerely hope that there may be a general awakening of public interest in Free Libraries. Their

operations, as will be seen from these pages, are becoming in some towns very much enlarged, which is the greatest evidence of their utility.

Our thoughts turn naturally to a large and comprehensive scheme of Local Government Reform, which may do much in the extending and establishment of Free Libraries. As one who, as a youth, made use for years of the first Free Library established under Mr. William Ewart's Act of 1850, and who was for a short time librarian at a branch Free Library, and now engaged in the larger sphere of editorship and joint proprietorship of newspapers, I hope that my effort will be successful in leading some in towns where Free Libraries do not exist to commence a movement for the adoption of the Act.

LORDSHIP PARK,

STOKE NEWINGTON, LONDON, N.

February, 1886.





CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1

CHAPTER II.

EARLY FREE LIBRARIES	16
------------------------------	----

CHAPTER III.

THE FIRST FREE LIBRARY ESTABLISHED UNDER WIL- LIAM EWART'S ACT	25
---	----

CHAPTER IV.

SOME PROMINENT FREE LIBRARIES	38
---------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER V.

FREE LIBRARIES RECENTLY OPENED OR IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION	96
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

	PAGE
USES OF FREE LIBRARIES	132

CHAPTER VII.

THE EDUCATING OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT	140
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

FORMATION, FUNDS, BUILDING, &c.	154
---------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER IX.

LIBRARY FITTINGS, FURNITURE, AND APPLIANCES ..	166
--	-----

CHAPTER X.

SELECTION, PURCHASE, AND CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS ..	175
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

THE MANAGEMENT OF FREE LIBRARIES	184
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

WHAT PRIVATE MUNIFICENCE HAS DONE FOR FREE LIBRARIES	187
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

FREE LIBRARIES IN LONDON	233
----------------------------------	-----

CONTENTS.

xiii

CHAPTER XIV.

	PAGE
FREE LIBRARIES IN RURAL DISTRICTS	260

CHAPTER XV.

FREE LIBRARIES IN BOARD SCHOOLS	277
---------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

FREE LIBRARIES IN AMERICA AND CANADA	288
--	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

FREE LIBRARIES IN AUSTRALASIA	309
-------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVIII.

MUSEUMS IN CONNECTION WITH FREE LIBRARIES ..	334
--	-----

CHAPTER XIX.

FREE LIBRARY LECTURES	358
-----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XX.

SCIENCE AND ART CLASSES IN CONNECTION WITH FREE LIBRARIES	368
--	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

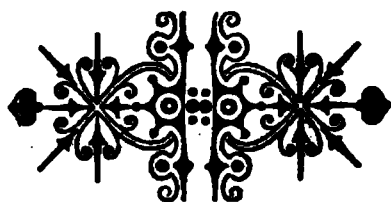
A WORD TO FREE LIBRARY COMMITTEES	381
---	-----

CHAPTER XXII.

STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES	389
------------------------------------	-----

APPENDICES.

	PAGE
I. THE FREE LIBRARIES ACTS AND AMENDMENTS: —	
1. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [IRELAND], 1855".	401
2. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [ENGLAND], 1855".	409
3. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES AMENDMENT ACT [ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND], 1866."	424
4. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [SCOTLAND], 1867".	428
5. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [SCOTLAND, 1867], AMENDMENT ACT, 1871"	438
6. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [1855], AMENDMENT ACT, 1871" [ENGLAND]	445
7. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT [1871] AMENDMENT ACT, 1877" [ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND]	447
8. "MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY ACT, 1861" [ENGLAND AND IRELAND]	449
9. "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1884"	450
II. RULES, REGULATIONS, AND FORMS FOR FREE LIBRARIES	454
III. COPY OF REQUISITION CALLING MEETING	461
IV. COPY OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT MEETING	462

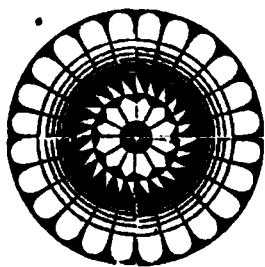




LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
OPENING OF THE MANCHESTER FREE LIBRARY IN 1852 ..	33
READING-ROOM, BRITISH MUSEUM	42
LIVERPOOL FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM	56
SIR J. A. PICTON, F.S.A.	59
BIRMINGHAM REFERENCE LIBRARY	64
BIRMINGHAM REFERENCE LIBRARY AND TEMPORARY MUSEUM	65
SHEFFIELD CENTRAL FREE LIBRARY	79
UPPERTHORPE BRANCH FREE LIBRARY, SHEFFIELD ..	81
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND NEWS-ROOM	86
BLACKBURN FREE LIBRARY	91
WIMBLEDON FREE LIBRARY	97
BELFAST FREE LIBRARY	98
HINDLEY FREE LIBRARY	104
HINDLEY FREE LIBRARY, PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR ..	106
ELLIOT'S LIBRARY INDICATOR	169
COTGREAVE'S LIBRARY INDICATOR	171
INDICATOR BOOK	172
HARRIS FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, PRESTON	197

	PAGE
THE LATE MR. JOSHUA NICHOLSON	205
NICHOLSON LIBRARY, LEEK	203, 209
MR. J. T. BRUNNER, M.P.	222
CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY, DUNFERMLINE	227
READING-ROOM, GUILDHALL LIBRARY	236
WANDSWORTH FREE LIBRARY.. .. .	238
DR. G. D. LONGSTAFF	241
A VILLAGE LIBRARY	275
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	293
DERBY FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM	347
THE LATE MR. W. T. BASS, M.P.	349
IPSWICH MUSEUM, FREE LIBRARY, AND SCHOOL OF ART ..	356





FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

RYLE has said that "the true university of these days is a collection of books." It would appear, however, that in by far the greater majority of towns and districts this fact had yet to be realized; for, notwithstanding the Public Libraries Act having been in operation since 1850, only 133 towns have yet availed themselves of these useful institutions. Even of this number, small as it is when compared with the very large number of populous towns and districts,

it has to be, when statistics are minutely examined, discounted, for some included in the number given are really not Free Libraries at all, but tax the borrowers of the books in a way never intended by the Act.

The age in which we live is an educational one; and it cannot be considered creditable to us, as a nation, that the book-hunger which pervades so universally the middle and lower classes especially, should have been met to so small an extent. It would be most unfair to state that there has been negligence on the part of town councils and the leading men in towns where the Act has not been adopted, but is, we think, to be more attributed to the want of general information as to the formation of Free Libraries, than from any other cause. Peculiar notions exist in the minds of the public respecting them; and from a varied experience which the author has had, these erroneous ideas are not by any means confined to the rank and file of would-be borrowers, but exist in the minds of many prominent men. Some of the public think that they have to pay a penny for each loan of a book, and that only one book is lent to each family, and that many other difficulties have to be overcome before books can be taken out of Free Libraries. The aim of the author will be to remove very conclusively these wrong impressions, and to explain clearly how Free Public Libraries may be formed, their many uses, and management.

Our appeal is to all in towns and rural districts who care for the welfare of the community among which they dwell, to agitate and discuss the advisa-

bility as to the formation of these institutions where not already established. Clergymen and ministers of all denominations, and friends of the people of every shade of opinion, this is a question for you. Those with well-filled book-shelves of their own can and ought the more to sympathize with those who have not, and exert themselves to place within the reach of all, those of which Wordsworth has so beautifully said—

“ Books, we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good ;
Round which, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow.”

This problem of providing books for the teeming masses has been solved, as we shall endeavour to show, in a very practical way, by the New England States of America and in Australia; and shall the great mother country remain sluggish and inactive in this important matter, concerning, as it does, the vital interests for good of districts where these Free Public Libraries are established ?

Free Libraries must not be confounded with Free Education, about which so much is just now being said, and about which there is naturally a great divergence of opinion. There is a wide difference between the two, and no opponent of Free Education could for the same reasons be an opponent of Free Libraries. Let it be said, with sorrow, that in not a few towns where an effort has been made to establish Free Libraries, that the chief and most influential opposition has come, not from the masses, but from the well-to-do classes,

with an unlimited command of books ; and yet they have sought to deny to their poorer brethren access to books which they could not afford to purchase.

How extensively these institutions are used, how genuinely they are appreciated, how light and trivial the very small rate levied for their maintenance is felt, can only be gained by an intimate acquaintance with the Free Libraries in some of our large towns.

Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Midlands, from which counties have come so many of those movements which have throbbled the country, take the lead in these Free Libraries, and their buildings rank among the most prominent public structures in the town, and have become the pride and boast of the ratepayers. Were there now to be an attempt made to abolish them, there would come down on the heads of those so acting a public execration which would quickly cause them to desist.

There is no effort for the public good which could be commenced in any district which could be made to so effectually weld the sympathies and activities of those holding opposite views in politics and religion as this subject which we desire to bring before their earnest consideration and attention. Every town ought to have its Free Library and Public Reading-room ; every rural district of over 5,000 inhabitants should have its Free Library ; and instead of a paltry 133 of these institutions in thirty-five years' time, the number during the next ten years should be more than doubled.

. The evidence of the towns where they have already

been adopted should be conclusive, and this is unmistakably on the side that they are a great boon to the masses, that they provide wholesome reading for all, and that the only trade which appears in any way to suffer is that of the publican. Further, that their tendency is to diminish crime, and give healthy recreation and information wherever they exist and are properly managed.

The wonder respecting them is the small cost by which they are supported. The burden on those who contribute the most in their rates is so low, that if rightly viewed, it will be the most cheerfully paid of any item in the rate paper. Let us now emphasize the fact that all that the Act of Parliament permits is one penny in the pound per annum on the rateable value of the house in which the ratepayer dwells, and in some districts the limit of one penny in the pound is not reached. There are thousands of householders in our manufacturing towns whose rental is not more than £10 per year, and these would pay the enormous sum of tenpence per year in instalments towards the maintenance of the Free Library. The rateable value of other houses up to £50, £60, or whatever the amount may be, is taxed with the same penny or less, as the case may be, and no manipulation on the part of assessors, town councils, or others can make it more. True, poor's rates and education rates are high in some districts, but time will show that rates for the maintenance of gaols, police, lunatic asylums, and workhouses, will become appreciably lower as education and intelligence spread.

To all in authority, to all with a voice in local affairs,

we would say, think seriously upon the advisability of establishing a Free Library in your district; agitate the subject, do not be daunted by opposition, and if you succeed, generations yet unborn will bless your memory; and if you do not at first succeed, do not let the subject rest, but bring it forward again and again, until success crown your efforts. All students of history know with what struggles almost everything which has been for the good of the community at large has been won. To lovers of books—and their name is legion—it is unnecessary to appeal to do what they can to help to place within the reach of others books, as well as increase the store to which they themselves may have access.

It is opportune for us to here place forward the opinions respecting Free Libraries of some of the prominent men of the day.

Sir R. N. Fowler, M.P., said; on October 1st, 1885, when declaring open the Wandsworth Free Library, the first, to the great discredit be it said, instituted under the Public Libraries Act in the Metropolis. The Lord Mayor, having accepted a morocco-bound copy of the catalogue, congratulated the town on its adoption of the Act, and having been the first of the suburbs of London to take this step. He understood that every ratepayer of Wandsworth had the right to borrow a book from the library for seven days, and they would find that a lending, as well as a reference library, was a great advantage. Having inspected the library, he bore testimony to the admirable way in which it was fitted up, and adapted to the comfort of those who found their

way there. The proceeds of the rate were not sufficient to add to the library to the extent which could be desired. He was glad to hear that 7,000 volumes had been accumulated, but there was scope for addition, and for this purpose a surplus was wanted, which he hoped private subscriptions would furnish. The rate was sufficient for the administration of the library, but not more. As the population increased the rate would yield more. In 1851 the population of Wandsworth was 9,611; in 1861, 13,346; in 1871, 19,783; in the last census of 1881, 28,004; and the population was now estimated at 32,000. This was not so large an increase as had taken place in some parts of London, notably West Ham, where the population had risen from 10,000 in 1851, to 160,000; but it was a considerable increase, which would no doubt go on. He advised people not to spend all their spare time in the study of current events, but to pursue also solid studies. Sir Robert Peel once said that the influence of the British institutions upon the masses was an incentive to toil and a means of elevation, and what that statesman had said of British institutions he (the Lord Mayor) said of Free Libraries.

In connection with the opening of the Wandsworth Library, Sir Trevor Lawrence addressed the following letter to the librarian.

“DEAR SIR,—I only returned home last night, and I regret ill-health prevents my being present to support my friend the Lord Mayor at the opening of the Public Library this evening.

“I need hardly say that nothing has been more satis-

factory to me than to support this institution. Now that new duties and responsibilities are devolving upon the masses of our population, it is essentially necessary that they should be provided—even better, that they should provide themselves, as in this case—with the means of informing themselves on public questions. This can only be done by some study of the past as well as of the present, and by looking at both sides of every important question.

“Public Libraries, moreover, supply, in the best form, an antidote or counter-attraction to the allurements of the public-house. Surely it is infinitely better and more reasonable, as well as of more lasting efficacy, to give people the means of comfortable and reasonable, as well as pleasant occupation and recreation, than to punish the many for the faults and weaknesses of the few by attempts to do away with public-houses altogether.

“Looking back over the ten years I have had the honour of representing Mid-Surrey, nothing gives me greater satisfaction than the recollection that I have tried to do what little I could to help all legitimate attempts to increase the means and opportunities of my constituents for mental recreation and instruction, and that I have supported, to the best of my ability, all athletic games and sports, to which our people owe so much of their manly character.

“I am, yours faithfully,

“TREVOR LAWRENCE.”

The Right Hon. Lord Iddesleigh, writing on

October 16th, 1885, says:—"I am glad to hear that you are interesting yourself in the promotion of Free Libraries, and heartily wish you success. All that I have seen of these institutions is encouraging, except the smallness of their number."

Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., writes:—"I quite agree with you in attaching the utmost importance to the Free Libraries movement. It is certainly amazing, and not at all creditable, that thirty years after the commencement of the Act so few towns have adopted it. In Newcastle-on-Tyne we had a long and rather severe fight. We won, and at present an excellent institution is established, and is doing valuable work. Wishing you success in your efforts to popularize the movement, Yours very truly, Thos. Burt."

Sir John Lubbock, M.P., a true lover of books, and one who has the welfare of the community sincerely at heart, says—"It is much to be regretted that so few towns have availed themselves of the Free Libraries Act." Speaking at Shrewsbury on April 9th, 1885, on the occasion of the opening of the Free Library and Museum, he, in the course of his speech, spoke as follows:—"The citizens of Shrewsbury are setting a good example in availing themselves of the admirable Act for which we are indebted to Mr. Ewart. They will not, I am sure, regret it. Nor even from a pecuniary view do I believe that it will be in the long run an addition to your rates. What you will spend in one way you will save in others. Moreover, how far better it is to spend our money on libraries and schools than on prisons. Already the

Act of 1870 is beginning to tell. To no other cause, I think, can we attribute the gratifying diminution in crime which has taken place, and is taking place. Statistics are no doubt sometimes deceptive, as when the intelligent foreigner placed it to the credit of representative institutions, that when Parliament was sitting there seemed to be so much fewer cases in the metropolitan police-courts. Still we may fairly find much encouragement in recent criminal statistics. I cannot doubt that the diminution in crime and in the number of criminals is greatly due to the improvements in education, and to the children being kept out of the streets. I am sometimes disposed to think that the great readers of the next generation will be, not our lawyers or doctors, shopkeepers or manufacturers, but the labourer and mechanic. Does not this seem natural? The former work mainly with their head. When their daily duties are over, the brain is often exhausted, and of their leisure time much must be devoted to air and exercise. The labourer and mechanic, on the contrary, besides being occupied often for much shorter hours, have in their work-time taken sufficient bodily exercise, and can therefore give any leisure they might have to reading and study. They have not done so as yet, it is true, but this has been for obvious reasons. Now, however, in the first place they receive an excellent education in our elementary schools; and in the second they often have in our Free Libraries the whole range of literature thrown open to them. We meet, indeed, appreciation of learning in many quarters where we might least expect it. There is, for instance, an

Arabic proverb that a 'Wise man's day is worth a fool's life,' and a Mohammedan (though it rather, perhaps, reflects the spirit of the Caliphs than of the Sultans), that 'the ink of science is more precious than the blood of a martyr.' Confucius is said to have described himself as a man who 'in his eager pursuit of knowledge forgot his food; who, in the joy of its attainment forgot his sorrows, and did not even perceive that old age was coming on.' Yet if this could be said by the Chinese and the Arabs, what language can be strong enough to express the gratitude we ought to feel for the advantages we enjoy? We sometimes talk of light and air and water as costing nothing. But in towns at least this is a cheerful delusion. Light is often cut off, air is smoke, and water is suggestive of rates rather than of freedom. Books, however, will now in Shrewsbury, as in many other cities, be open free of expense to all comers. And what a boon you are to-day conferring! Macaulay, who had all that wealth and fame, rank and talents, could give, yet we are told derived his greatest happiness from books. Mr. Trevelyan, in his charming biography, says that 'of the feelings which Macaulay entertained towards the great minds of by-gone ages it is not for anyone except himself to speak. He has told us how his debt to them was incalculable; how they guided him to truth, how they filled his mind with noble and graceful images, how they stood by him in all vicissitudes—comforters in sorrow, nurses in sickness, companions in solitude, the old friends who are never seen with new faces; who are the same in wealth and in poverty, in glory and in obscurity.' We must,

however, be careful what we read, and not, like the sailors of Ulysses, take bags of wind for sacks of treasure—not only lest we should even now fall into the error of the Greeks, and suppose that language and definitions can be instruments of investigations as well as of thought, but lest, as too often happens, we should waste time over trash. It is wonderful indeed how much innocent happiness we thoughtlessly throw away. A Chinese proverb says that calamities sent by Heaven may be avoided, but from those we bring on ourselves there is no escape. Time is often said to be money. But it is more. It is life. Yet how many there are who would cling desperately to life, and yet think nothing of wasting time. ‘For who knows most, him loss of time most grieves.’ Chesterfield’s letters to his son, with a great deal that is worldly and cynical, contain certainly much good advice. ‘Every moment, for instance,’ he says, ‘which you now lose, is so much character and advantage lost; as, on the other hand, every moment you now employ usefully is so much time wisely laid out at prodigious interest.’ ‘Do what you will,’ he elsewhere observes, ‘only do something.’ ‘Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it.’ Is not happiness indeed a duty, as well as self-denial? It has been well said that some of our teachers err perhaps in that ‘they dwell on the duty of self-denial, but exhibit not the duty of delight.’ We must, however, be ungrateful indeed if we cannot appreciate the wonderful and beautiful world in which we live. Moreover, how can we make others happy without trying to become so

ourselves? Few indeed attain the philosophy of Hegel, who is said to have calmly finished his '*Phaenomenologie des Geistes*,' at Jena, on the 14th October, 1808, not knowing anything whatever of the battle that was raging round him. Most men, however, may at will make of this world either a palace or prison. When the untrained eye will see nothing but mire and dirt, science will often reveal exquisite possibilities. Take a beautiful illustration of Ruskin's. The mud we tread under our feet in the street is a grimy mixture of clay and sand, soot and water. Separate the sand, however, let the atoms arrange themselves in place according to their nature, and you have the opal. Separate the clay, and it becomes a white earth fit for the finest porcelains; or if it still further purifies itself, you have the sapphire. Take the soot, and if properly treated it will give you a diamond; while lastly, the water, purified and distilled, will become a dewdrop, or crystallize into a lovely star. Or to take another illustration from the same author, speaking of a gutter in a street, he well observes that at your own will you may see in it either the refuse of the street or the image of the sky. Nay, even if we imagine beauties and charms which do not exist, still if we err at all it is better to do so on the side of charity, like Nasmyth, who tells us in his delightful autobiography that he used to think one of his friends had a charming and kindly twinkle, till one day he discovered that he had a glass eye. Many, I believe, are deterred from attempting what are called stiff books for fear they should not understand them; but, as Hobbes said, there are few who need complain

of the narrowness of their minds if only they would do their best with them. In reading, however, it is most important to select subjects in which one is interested. This, indeed, applies to the work of life generally. I remember years ago consulting Mr. Darwin as to a selection of a course of study. He asked me what interested me most, and advised me to choose that subject. The wise motto over your old schools, that 'if you love learning you will be learned,' seems to contain the very essence of true education. I will conclude by saying, in the words of Ruskin, that anyone in future who will avail himself of the resources which you are now throwing open to the very poorest of your fellow citizens, may place himself on an eminence from which he may look back on the universe of God, and forward on the generations of men."

The private secretary of Lord Randolph Churchill writes:—"Lord Randolph Churchill desires me to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter. He has no doubt that your book will contain much useful information on the subject of Free Libraries, and that it will give considerable encouragement to the public to avail themselves of the educational advantages offered by the admirable institutions of which it treats."

"They manage these things better in France," has passed, as a current saying, into our language; and it would appear that with regard to Free Libraries, this is so; for turning to a letter written from France a few years ago, it reads as follows:—"We have now in France more than 1,000 popular Free

Libraries. They possess more than 1,000,000 volumes. We have also 17,500 school libraries; these, which are for the use both of children and adults, possess about 2,000,000 volumes. Every school library, whether founded by the township, is allowed 100 volumes or more from the French Government. If in subsequent years the township votes additional funds, the Government makes a further donation. To these two sources of income must be added grants from the funds of the department."

Robert Giffen, LL.D. (of the Board of Trade), in his address as President of the Statistical Society, November 20, 1883, on "The Progress of the Working Classes in the last Half Century," said (*Journ. Statist. Soc.*, vol. xlv., p. 606):—"To a great deal of this expenditure we may attach the highest value. It does not give bread or clothing to the working man, but it all helps to make life sweeter and better, and so open out careers even to the poorest. The value of the Free Library, for instance, in a large city, is simply incalculable.



CHAPTER II.

EARLY FREE LIBRARIES.

history of Libraries appears to late in England at least from the fourteenth century. Monks, from their cloisters, have left us an evidence of how they spent their time between *matins* and evensong; and whatever reasonable doubt there may be of the usefulness of their work to the age in which they lived, book-lovers and collectors will ever owe them a debt of gratitude for the illuminated books they left as legacies to the generations following them.

A singular assertion was made at the Plymouth Conference of last year, to the effect that there were more Free Libraries two or three hundred years ago than there were at the present time. This is an interesting point, especially to librarians; and if the

statement can be substantiated, it proves the greater need for those using these institutions, and who are interested in their extension, to use every effort in the direction of their being established universally all over the United Kingdom.

Certain it is that during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, Public Libraries were established, and it is not a little to the credit of this wise and noble Englishman that he should at that early date have recognized that the truest republic for the people was the republic of letters.

As to which part of this country can claim to have established the first Free Library, is a question which has been considerably discussed; but a paper, read last year by Mr. John Taylor, City Librarian, Bristol, on this subject, has for the present set this matter at rest. "It should be remembered," said Mr. Taylor, in the course of this paper, "that our present mental illumination was of no sudden kindling, but had developed from the spark that was kept alive in the cloistered shades of old. It was possible that in the waste of the Monastic Libraries at the dissolution, works may have perished which, had they been spared, would have shown that the Bristol monk or friar was, as elsewhere, sometimes a man of intelligence, or even of genius. Notwithstanding the implied prejudice of the monks and secular clergy against profane learning, they might look back to both these classes of churchmen with feelings of thankfulness for what they had done for the commonwealth of letters, if not by original productions, at least by the preservation of the works

of the great mind of antiquity. There was an ancient library that once flourished in Bristol, for which they claimed the distinction of being the first Free Library accessible to the public. It might be found, by reference to the article 'Libraries,' in the new edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' that the first Free Library Act was passed in 1850, and that the Manchester Free Library, which was opened in the same year, was the first to be established under Parliamentary authority. In that article it was stated that the fine old library instituted by Humphrey Cheetham, in Manchester, in 1653, and which was still 'housed in the old collegiate buildings where Raleigh was once entertained by Dr. Dee,' might be said to be the first Free Library. The purport of the present paper was to controvert that statement, and to show that Bristol might claim the honour of having founded a Free Library in her midst two centuries earlier than the date of Cheetham's Library, and also that a second Public Library was established in Bristol in 1613, or forty years previous to that of Manchester. Close to the Exchange, Bristol, is a church, which, judging from the Italian campanile, might have been built in the last century, though the windows of the north aisle against the streets, would indicate a date as far back as the fifteenth century. An examination of the interior, however, would discover that masses must have been sung within its precincts as early as the twelfth century; for immediately within the western entrance is a group of four circular piers, with Norman capitals, and of low elevation, having been dwarfed to support a house or

chamber erected over that end of either aisle of the church, to serve for the abode of the vicar. A corresponding structure over the north aisle was destroyed in the last century. This apartment, or upper room, which extended the length of the nave, served as the cottage and library of a fraternity of semi-monastics, to whom was committed the custody of the civic archives, and whose office it was to keep a register of local and public events and acts. This body were termed kalendars, and by a re-establishment of the ordinances, in 1464, by John, Bishop of Worcester, it was instructed that the prior should constantly reside in the house of the kalendars, and take custody of a certain library, newly erected, at the bishop's expense, in the same house; so that every festival day—by which, of course, was then meant all days which were not fasts, at two hours before nine, and for two hours after, free access should be granted to all willing to enter, for the sake of instruction, the prior undertaking to explain difficult passages of Holy Scripture, to the best of his knowledge, and to give a public lecture in the library every week. Lest through negligence the books should be lost or alienated, it was ordered that three catalogues of them should be kept; one to remain with the Dean of Antiquarian Canons, another with the mayor for the time being, and the third with the prior himself. The bishop also ordered that once every year there should be a due collating of all the books, with the inventories, or catalogues, by the dean, prior, and another appointed by the mayor, between the feast of St. Michael and All Saints; and if it should happen that some book,

through the neglect of the prior, should be carried out of the library, and stolen, the prior was to restore the book to the library, under a penalty of 40s. above its true value; and if he could not restore it again, then he was to pay the value of the book and 40s., besides 20s. to the mayor, and the rest for the benefit of the library. They ventured, therefore, to conclude that as early as 1464 a reference library was instituted in Bristol; but the kalendars were recorded to have lost most of their books and charters early in the fourteenth century, by an accidental fire. The Kalendars' Library had long ago vanished, but there was yet another Free Library existing in Bristol. Mr. Charles Tovey, a member of the Town Council, was an early advocate for the adoption of the Free Library Act in Bristol, and in 1853 issued a work, entitled 'The Bristol City Library; its Founders and Benefactors.' Mr. Tovey was still living, and took an earnest endeavour as heretofore in the Library of that place. In 1615, Dr. Toby Matthews and Mr. Robert Redwood, of St. Leonard, Bristol, were instrumental in founding a library, and Rev. Richard Williams was appointed the first keeper. In 1628, Tobias Matthews, who had himself found the benefit of learning, in having through its means been elevated from a draper's stool in a shop on Bristol Bridge to the Throne of York Minster, left to his native city many of his books, that, like himself, merchants and shopkeepers might not confine their studies to their ledgers and account books. In consequence of the increasing number of books, an extension of the buildings became necessary, and in 1634, the Common

Council ordered that 'out of a love for learning, and a desire to preserve the books,' £25 should be expended, which amount was afterwards increased to £35. Opposite the old Church of the Kalendars formerly stood the sacred edifice of St. Ewen, a structure that about a century ago was taken down to provide the present site of the Common Council. There being a great want of a library for the propagation of learning, this building was ordered to be converted into a library for the use of the city. According to the order then issued, the place was to be used as a Public Library. An earlier instance of the Free Library Act, he opined, was not to be found within the annals of English legislation. The library in question was, however, not established. There were strong arguments to show that the Free Library had, during its century and a half of existence, been a vast literary advantage to the city.

Bristol has now several Free Libraries; but we could wish for this enterprising and busy city a more commodious and inviting home for its parent library than the building in which it is now situated. Probably a better evidence of the unwisdom of attempting to adapt an old building for the purposes of a Free Library could not be named than the King Street building in Bristol. The street is in a thickly populated district, and the library and reading-room are well patronized by those living near; but the structure is altogether too small, and is, moreover, badly lighted and badly ventilated, and for the city claiming to have had the first Free Library in England it does not do credit. There is a lack of brightness and attractiveness about

the place, and it is rather to be regretted that the Committee have not decided upon a new home for this library in the improved and very handsome thoroughfare close by its present location.

The work of Mr. William Ewart, in connection with his Bill of 1849, was no light struggle, and it provides one of the many examples of how often the House of Commons has, to the bitter end, opposed measures to which, after they have been passed, they have given no stinted praise for the beneficial results in the nation, through the advantages conferred by those Acts they so strenuously opposed. When Mr. Ewart proposed that British municipalities should be empowered to build libraries, as well as make sewers and supply gas and water, and to levy a local rate for bringing books into the parlour of the tradesman, or the kitchen of the working man, he found, as all reformers have found, that his only prospect of success lay in dealing piecemeal with the subject.

The record in Hansard of the debate on the question is very interesting, if not profitable, reading. The appearance of the "talking shop," as Carlyle irreverently called it, on the second reading of the Bill by which it was proposed to create for the first time in England permanent Free Libraries, was somewhat striking. The house was not by any means a full one, but the benches were well occupied by those who had previously expressed themselves against the measure. Had there been some trumpery "personal explanation" to be made, and a "scene" expected, every seat would have been occupied, but because the feeding of the intelligence of the nation

was concerned, the majority of the members lingered over their dinner, and their places were vacant. Constituencies now watch very closely the attendance of their members at divisions, and it is well for the nation that it should be so.

It must be confessed that the house looked bored with the subject. The immediate proposal before them was limited to the procuring of sites and the erecting or adapting of buildings for Free Libraries, and the provision from time to time of the expenses of maintenance by means of a library rate ; and it was entirely a permissive measure, leaving every town to decide for itself. The provision of books was to be a matter for future legislation. Looking at the question as it rested before the House, one naturally wonders that so simple a measure should have met with any opposition, but the division showed 101 *noes* against 118 *ayes*. In later stages the small measure of practicability which the Bill contained was, by the persistent wilfulness of its opponents, lessened in committee. When it was returned to the Commons it had yet another trial to pass, and altogether it went through a dozen discussions and six formal divisions before the opposition ceased. Ultimately, when it reached the Lords, to the credit of that hereditary chamber be it said, it was carried without any opposition whatever, and in fact, what was said in the gilded chamber was rather on the side of furthering than of hindering it.

When it received the Royal assent on August 14th, 1850, its chief provisions stood as follows:—

1. Town Councils were permitted, if they thought it

well to do so, to put to their burgesses the question—"Will you have a library rate levied for providing a Free Library," and to poll them on that question. The proposal was, however, limited to a population of not less than 10,000 within the municipal limits.

2. In the event of the ratepayers deciding that question in the affirmative, the rate so levied was limited to a halfpenny in the pound on the rateable property.

3. The product of any rate so levied was to be applied (1) to the erection or adaptation of buildings, together with contingent expenses, if any, for the site; (2) to current charges of management and maintenance.

4. Town Councils were then empowered to borrow money on the security of the rates of any city or borough which shall have adopted the Act.

Other legislation followed, as will be seen on reference to the Appendix, in which the various Acts will be found. The main alterations were, in the later Bills, to reduce the number to 5,000, and to permit a rate of a penny in the pound to be levied.

From this beginning, some hundred and thirty have been established; but how great the need is for their extension on all sides, I hope to prove in the course of these pages, at least to all unprejudiced minds.



CHAPTER III.

THE FIRST FREE LIBRARY ESTABLISHED UNDER WILLIAM EWART'S ACT.

influence of Manchester on commerce, politics, and education has long been a recognized fact, and to the everlasting credit of Manchester be it said that it was the first town to avail itself of the Public Libraries Act of 1850. Cottonopolis may reasonably be proud of this fact, and the author of this work, a native of that district, looks back with pride and pleasure to the time when, as a lad in his teens, he went backwards and forwards to the old Campfield Library as a borrower. All honour to Manchester for what she has done towards the advancement of knowledge, of social progress in its various forms.

It is full of interest to look back upon the opening of the first Free Library under William Ewart's Act, and that can only be done by quoting the language of the time, and this we do, taken from the *Illustrated London News* of September 11th, 1852. The heading to the article is "Free Libraries or Free Literature":—

"Manchester is ambitious, and wishes to excel in other things than in the acquisition of wealth. She is not contented with being great, populous, enterprising, industrious, and thriving; but desires to be known for her love of literature and the arts, and her generous encouragement of them. Her wealthy citizens, engrossed as they are in trade and manufactures, are anxious to set a good example. They have shown that the pursuits of worldly gain do not necessarily shut the mind against elegant accomplishments and refined tastes. If cotton and gold be good, books are as good as either. If it be right that the multitude should toil not alone for their daily bread, but for present wealth or future independence, it is right that in the hours of their leisure and relaxation they should cultivate and improve their understandings by the wisdom and the wit, the history and the philosophy, the poetry and the science of the past and of the present. So say the people of Manchester, and when an idea takes possession of them, these shrewd and hard-headed men generally work it out to a successful issue. This has been testified before now by the debates of our Senate, and in the history of our time, and has been testified again by the establishment of

the great Free Library—the first, but most certainly not the last institution of its kind.

“The public inauguration of that library, graced as it was by the presence and co-operation of some of the most eminent authors of our day, is an event which may well excite reflection, both among those who love, and those who live by, literature; the first class reckoned by millions, the second by hundreds, if not by thousands. Upon that interesting occasion the readers and makers of books were both represented. They stood face to face, and shook hands with each other. Manchester, the great and wealthy city, declared, with pomp, circumstance, and emphasis, that she fully appreciated the uses and the blessings of good books, and desired to extend them to all classes of her people. She acknowledged literature to be a power in the commonwealth, although the commonwealth practically denies it, and the wielders of that power stood by and applauded the sentiment. Among those men, representing in the most effective and brilliant manner the literary genius of our time, were several, and these among the most distinguished, who went to Manchester, not to aid in the establishment of a Manchester Library, but to gather money for the support and endowment of an institution of a very different class. Sir John Potter and the men of Manchester had succeeded in their object. Their institution was formed. The building was built, the books were bought, and the city of Manchester had voluntarily taxed itself to support it. But the object to be attained by Sir Edward Lytton, Mr. Charles Dickens, and the other friends of

the Guild of Literature and Art had not arrived at the same happy culmination. Their institution is to do for literary men what Manchester, with all its patronage, were it a thousand times greater, cannot perform ; it is to elevate the position, not in the first place, of the readers, but of the makers of books ; and by thus improving the character and extending the usefulness of the literature of the present age, to include the work of Manchester in its own.

“ If we are to judge, however, by the speeches made on this occasion, Manchester intends to do little or nothing in this sense. The object of Manchester is the books, and not the authors. She has got her library, and taxed herself to support it as it stands ; but, by a strange omission in the Act of Parliament under which the Free Library has become the public property of the district, Manchester has no power except by voluntary contribution to increase, by the purchase of new books, the library which she has established. In so far the living authors of Great Britain will receive but a barren tribute of applause from the commercial city. The object of those who desire to establish the Guild of Literature, and who gave the powerful support of their presence, their sympathy, and their speeches to the Free Library, gains nothing from Manchester. Yet Manchester and its people desire, we cannot doubt, not simply to do honour to the literary character, but to make the profession of literature as self-supporting, as honourable, and as certain as any other pursuit or calling to which able and conscientious men can devote themselves. But how, it may be asked, can Man-

chester do this? What prevents Literature from taking its rank as a profession equal to Law, to Medicine, and to Divinity? and why should Manchester or any other place be called upon to aid in so establishing it?

“We shall endeavour briefly to answer these questions, and to show what Manchester, which has done so much, can yet do—not alone for books, but for those who make them—not alone for literature in the abstract, but for the literary men, without whom we should have no literature except the literature of the past.

“We say nothing more at present of the ‘Guild of Literature,’ because most of the objects in view of its promoters are objects which are to be achieved more by literary men themselves than by the public, but shall confine ourselves to those objects which the literary men who support the Guild, as well as literary men generally, have some right to demand public assistance in obtaining. The resolution which was proposed at Manchester by Mr. Charles Dickens, expressed a hope that the books made available to the people by means of a Free Library, would ‘prove a source of pleasure and improvement in the cottages, the garrets, and the cellars of the poorest of our people.’ No doubt they will; but if so, it surely becomes a matter of importance to Manchester and other large cities, and to the State and the Government, that the class of men without whom contemporary literature could not exist, should have fair play in the exercise of their calling. If they are public benefactors, the public ought not to impede them in their vocation. If they render the State a service, by educating the popular mind, and by keeping

alive the sacred flame of patriotism and virtue, the State, even if it did not recognize, honour, and reward them, should at least refrain from taxing their industry. Many persons are of opinion that the State should not only honour, when living, the great authors, whose names in foreign nations are synonymous with the literary glories of their country—but that it should honour them substantially by employment, or by provision for their old age. On the lower ground of commercial justice, the State, if wise, should, we think, treat them with as much consideration as the producers of any other kind of commodities which help to make up the sum of national wealth. And here it is that the aid of Manchester, and of the lovers and readers of books generally, could be of such service to them. A book, though it treats of mental and spiritual things, is a physical substance. It exists, and can be felt and handled, and weighed, and packed like any other article of merchandise. It is true that there may be an evil in excessive trade; and Lord Shaftesbury calls excessive trade a ‘whirlpool.’ The State has taken good care that in this ‘whirlpool,’ if such it be, no author shall be overwhelmed. Lest he should trade to excess, the Government that does not tax the material upon which a painter paints, or a sculptor chisels, or a violinist performs, taxes the paper, without which his book could not exist;—unless, perchance, some revolution in taste and in manufacture should enable him to print upon thin sheets of metal, or some other commodity, as yet unknown to the exciseman. If, under the present system, an author be wiser than

his age, and publishes a book too great and good for popular appreciation or comprehension, and sells but one copy, he must pay to the Government a tax upon the one copy that he does, and upon the 999 that he does not, sell. As every book must be made known to the world, before the world will purchase or encourage it, the author is taxed for publicity, and is impeded in advertising it. We would ask the clear-sighted folk of Manchester how the production of cotton goods would answer if such a system were in operation with them? and, as sensible men of business, how long they would endure it?

“In an age when Free Libraries have become necessary, when the love of books is daily spreading wider and wider in society, the business of literature is as much a legitimate business as any other. It, indeed, becomes a question whether, instead of going to a Free Library to borrow, the working-man and the cottager, as well as the poorer portions of the middle-classes, would not purchase books, if justice were in this respect done to their producers. With an international copyright, and untaxed paper and advertisements, the literary genius of this age would find its money reward from the public of its own and other states. It would cease, to a great extent, to be in distress and in difficulties, and would be as well paid by the sale of its commodities as the manufacturers of Manchester in the production and sale of theirs. Expensive books do not suit the multitude of readers. Books must be made cheap ere they can be made accessible to the cottage or the workshop. By all means let our towns

and cities have their Free Libraries; but, at the same time, let us have Free Literature. The two objects are so far from being incompatible, that the second in reality includes all the advantages of the first, with many others of its own.

“The ‘million’ require cheap books as well as cheap bread. If they cannot get cheap good books they will have cheap bad ones. If publishers cannot produce new books at a cheap rate, and to pay the authors a copyright, which would not amount to more than the paper duty, they will pay the paper duty upon old books, on which there is no copyright, and leaving the living author to starve, or to change his vocation for the ‘diggings,’ or the street-crossings, will carry on a trade in reprints, or in that inferior literature, unworthy of the name, which degrades instead of elevates the people. To this result neither Manchester nor any other great city can be indifferent.”

The ceremony of opening the Library took place on Thursday, the 2nd September, 1852. Nearly 1,000 persons, a great portion of whom were ladies, were present. Sir J. Potter presided, and was supported on either side of the chair by the Earls of Shaftesbury and Wilton, the Bishop of Manchester, Sir E. Bulwer-Lytton, Sir J. Stephen, Messrs. Charles Dickens, W. M. Thackeray, C. Knight, J. Bright, M.P.; M. Milnes, M.P.; W. Brown, M.P.; J. Kershaw, M.P.; J. Brotherton, M.P.; and Mr. Felkin, Mayor of Manchester. Amongst the ladies were the Countess of Wilton and the Hon. Miss Egerton.

The chairman read the report, which stated that

OPENING OF THE MANCHESTER FREE LIBRARY ON
SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1852.

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the sums expended, including the necessary law charges, amounted to £2,147. The total of all subscriptions received was £9,325, which was increased to £10,125 by the working men's subscriptions. The expenditure in repairs, shelves, fittings, &c., was £4,816; giving the total cost of the buildings, fittings, furniture, &c., of £6,963. The number of volumes at present contained in the library is 16,013. Books of equal value have rarely, if ever, been collected on terms so moderate. The entire cost of the library was £4,282, independently of the large portion of the Library which was contributed gratuitously. This is believed to be the only gratuitous lending Library now existing on such a scale. An Act, 13 and 14 Vict., c. 65, known as the Public Libraries Act of 1850, provides the power of levying rates for the purpose of supporting this and other similar establishments, and on the poll for adopting a rate in favour of this institution there were 3,962 for, and only 40 against it. It will be for the Town Council to determine on the necessary expenditure, and on the rules under which the institution will be definitively constituted. But the Act of Parliament requires much amendment, as it only provides power to purchase land and buildings, but makes no provision for the purchase of books. The chairman having read the report, stated that Prince Albert had presented a number of handsomely-bound books to the institution, and read a letter from Colonel Phipps, which accompanied them.

The Earl of Shaftesbury then rose, and moved the resolution expressing confidence—"That the institution will effect great and lasting good in generations to

come." He said that, amidst the whirl of business there was a homage to mind and truth. They might have founded an attractive reading-room, with journals and periodicals, and have added the allurements of a smoking-room and billiard-table, but that would not have satisfied the requirements of the age or the aspirations of Manchester.

Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton said that this Library would form an endearing and conservative link between their wealth and their labour, and between the manufacturer and the operative. The other day the Minister of the United States told him, in reply to his question of what was the heaviest rate in the United States, that in some towns the poor-rate was almost as heavy as in this country, but that the largest rate was for the purpose of education, at which no one grumbles, as in education they find the principle of their safety.

Lord Shaftesbury's resolution was carried amidst loud applause.

Mr. Charles Dickens moved the next resolution—"That as this institution provides specially for the working-classes a Free Lending Library, the meeting earnestly hopes that the books will produce pleasure and improvement in the cottages, the garrets, and the cellars of the poorest of the people." Mr. Dickens, in the course of his address, characterized the Manchester School as "a great free-school, bent on carrying instruction to the poorest hearths. It is this great free school, inviting the humblest workman to come in and to be a student—this great free school, munificently endowed by voluntary subscriptions, in an incredibly short space

of time—starting upon its glorious career with 20,000 volumes of books—knowing no sect, no party, and no distinction; nothing but the public want and the public good. Henceforth, ladies and gentlemen, this building shall represent to me the Manchester School. And I pray to heaven, moreover, that many great towns and cities, and many high authorities, may go to school a little in the Manchester seminary, and profit by the noble lesson that it teaches.”

Mr. W. M. Thackeray seconded the resolution, and said that education is much changed from what it was one hundred years ago. Then Hogarth represented the idle mechanic as reading “Moll Flanders,” and the good mechanic as reading the history of that good apprentice who was made Lord Mayor of London. Now mechanics have got their Carlyles, their Dickenses, and their Bulwers to read. Such works as he (Mr. Thackeray) was in the habit of writing would occupy but a small space in such a library as this. “I know,” said Mr. Thackeray, “that our novels are but what we may call tarts for the people, whereas history is bread, and historical and spiritual truths are that upon which they must be fed.”

The resolution was passed. Several other resolutions were also passed, and the meeting having been addressed by Sir J. Stephens (Professor of Modern History at Cambridge), the Earl of Milton, Messrs. M. Milnes, M.P., John Bright, M.P., Brown, M.P., Felkin, C. Knight, Doctor Vaughan, and the Mayor, thanks were voted to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

Truly this was a page in the history of Free Libraries. Charles Dickens, Thackeray, Bulwer-Lytton, and others have gone to their rest, and, to complete the list, the very week this book was commenced the noble lord, Earl Shaftesbury, whose name is so worthily associated with the English progress of half a century, who was present and took an active part at the opening of the first Free Library under the 1850 Act, at the ripe age of eighty-four, left earth-life for the life beyond.

Early workers in the cause are "gone before," but the wise and practical words spoken on that auspicious occasion have more than come true; and we venture to predict that Free Libraries will be scattered throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom during the next quarter of a century.



CHAPTER IV.

SOME PROMINENT FREE LIBRARIES.

finest library in the world, without exception, is the one at the British Museum. Poor as London is in Free Libraries, the collection of books in the Museum is not only the largest of any known, but it is unique in its arrangements. It is not a lending library, simply a reference library, as our readers will scarcely require to be told. This is the workshop of some of our most prominent and well-known authors. Carlyle once applied to the authorities to allow him the use of one of the many small rooms in the Museum in which to write, but they no doubt wisely declined. Had they done so, perhaps poor Mrs. Carlyle would have been saved many a heart-burning. The following description, taken from the "Guide to the Museum," is

so complete and to the point, that we may be pardoned for quoting it here.

“ On crossing the threshold of the reading-room, the visitor finds himself in a large circular apartment crowned with a dome of the most magnificent dimensions, 140 feet in diameter, and 106 feet high. It is the largest dome in the world, with one exception, the Pantheon at Rome. The cylinder or drum which sustains the dome presents a continuous circular wall of books, which are accessible from the floor, or from low galleries running round the apartment; it comprises in the part open to the “readers” about 20,000 volumes of books of reference and standard works, and in the part round the galleries more than 50,000 volumes of the principal sets of periodical publications, old and new, and in various languages. In the decoration of the interior dome, light colours and the purest gilding have been used. The great room, therefore, has an illuminated and elegant aspect. The decorative work may be shortly described. The inner surface of the dome is divided into twenty compartments by moulded ribs, which are gilded with leaf prepared from unalloyed gold, the soffites being in ornamental patterns, and the edges touching the adjoining margins fringed with a leaf-pattern scalloped edge. Each compartment contains a large circular-headed window, with three panels above, the central one being medallion-shaped, the whole bordered with gilt mouldings and lines, and the field of the panels finished in encaustic azure blue, the surrounding margins being of a warm cream-colour. The details of the

windows are treated in like manner—the spandril panels being blue; the enriched column and pilaster caps, the central flowers, the border moulding and lines being all gilded; the margins cream-colour throughout. The moulded rim of the lantern light, which is painted and gilded to correspond, is forty feet diameter. The sash is formed of gilt moulded ribs radiating from a central medallion, in which the royal monogram is alternated with the imperial crown. The cornice, from which the dome springs, is massive and almost wholly gilded, the frieze being formed into panels bounded by lines terminating at the ends with a gilt fret ornament.”

The floor of the room is occupied with nineteen large and sixteen smaller tables, fitted up with ample accommodation for more than 300 readers; two of these are reserved for the exclusive use of ladies, who have been admitted as “readers” since about the year 1854; ladies, however, are always at liberty to take a seat at any other table which they prefer. By the simple expedient of raising the partition down the middle of each of the larger tables so high that a reader cannot see his opposite neighbour, privacy is secured to the literary working bees, and on entering the room when it is quite full, a stranger might at first suppose that it was nearly empty. The tables are all arranged so as to converge towards the centre of the room, as will be seen from the page engraving, near which are two circular ranges of stands for the gigantic Catalogue, the entries of which—all in manuscript—fill upwards of 300 large folio volumes, and a portion of which is thus, if not at

the reader's fingers' ends, yet actually at the end of every table. In the centre is the "quarter-deck" of the chief superintendent, whose position commands a general view of all the tables and their occupants, often between 200 and 300 in number.

What a difference exists between the reading-room of to-day and that of a century ago! Not only is its whole aspect changed with regard to the building, the accommodation provided, and the regulations respecting its management and rules for admission, but the increase in the number of its "readers" has kept equal pace with the increase in the thousands who visit the other parts of the Museum. The regulations for its management at the outset, in 1759, were of the same cautious and restrictive character with those for the general establishment. Gray, the poet, was one of the first to avail himself of the opening of the room; and some mention of it will be found in two or three of his letters. Readers have at their command, arranged on the walls around them, a library of 20,000 volumes, comprising books of reference of all kinds. They may, by merely writing for what they want, obtain as many volumes as they please of a printed and manuscript library of more than one million three hundred thousand (1,300,000) volumes,—the best and largest general collection in Europe. Their seats are furnished with every accommodation for writing and reading, and they are met on all sides with attention and civility; indeed, a nobleman in his private library may often miss facilities to be found in the reading-room of the Museum. The following are the most important directions

respecting it, taken from a printed paper which is given to every reader:—

1. The use of the reading-room is restricted to the purposes of study, reference, and research. The room is kept open on every day of the week except Sunday, and except Good Friday, Christmas-day, and any fast or thanksgiving day appointed by authority; except also the first four week-days of March and October.

2. The hours throughout the year are from nine in the morning till eight in the evening from September to April, inclusive, and till seven during the other months.

3. Persons desiring to be admitted to the reading-room must apply in writing to the principal librarian, specifying their profession or business, their place of abode, and, if required, the purpose for which they seek admission.

4. Every such application must be made two days at least before admission is required, and must be accompanied by a written recommendation from a householder (whose address can be identified from the ordinary sources of reference), or a person of recognized position, with full signature and address, stated to be given on personal knowledge of the applicant, and certifying that he or she will make proper use of the reading-room.

5. If such application or recommendation be unsatisfactory, the principal librarian will either refuse admission, or submit the case to the trustees for their decision.

6. The tickets of admission are renewable at the discretion of the principal librarian.

7. The tickets of admission must be produced if required, and are not transferable.

8. No person under twenty-one years of age is admissible, except under a special order from the Trustees.

9. Readers may not write upon, damage, or make any mark upon any book, manuscript, or map belonging to the Museum.

10. Readers may not lay the paper on which they are writing on any book, manuscript, or map.

11. No tracing is allowed to be made without express permission from the principal librarian.

12. Silence must be strictly observed in the reading-room.

13. Readers are particularly requested to replace on the shelves of the reading-room, as soon as done with, such books of reference as they may have had occasion to remove for the purpose of consultation.

14. The permission to use the reading-room may be withdrawn on the infringement of any of the rules.

15. Any reader taking a book, manuscript, map, or other property of the trustees, out of the reading-room will be dealt with according to law.

16. Readers, before leaving the reading-room, must restore to an attendant, at the centre counter, all books, manuscripts, or maps which they have received, and must reclaim and get back the tickets by which they obtained them. Readers are held responsible for such books, manuscripts, or maps until the tickets have been re-delivered to them.

17. Cases of incivility, of undue delay in supply of books, or other failure in the service, should be immediately reported to the superintendent of the reading-room.

There are various printed catalogues of portions of the collection, such as the King's Library, the Grenville Library, &c., and subsidiary catalogues to the magazines, newspapers, and serial publications, as well as to the Bibles and works illustrative of the Holy Scriptures. But the *magnum opus* is the General Catalogue. The entries are all made in manuscript by an army of scribes, whose daily work it is to add to it the names of all the new books which reach the Museum. These are entered under their author's name, or, where published anonymously, according to the subjects of which they treat. To the title of each book is affixed a "press mark," which by certain figures and letters familiar to the practised eyes of the officials, though unintelligible to the outer world, gives a clue to its whereabouts on the shelves of the leviathan collection. Every reader who wants a book must give in writing its full title and "press mark," in order to enable the attendants to bring it to him when seated at his table. It is much to be wished that there were another *classified* catalogue as well, in order to help the literary explorer when he knows the subject of a book, but is at a loss for the name of the author whom he wishes to consult.

The General Catalogue of the Library of the British Museum has been in process of printing since the year 1881. The printing has been carried on in two directions:—First, for volumes of the manuscript

Catalogue already filled with entries, and which it would be necessary, if kept in MS., to break up and extend. Second, in continuous order from the commencement of the alphabet. The two sections will eventually combine in one series, and complete the work. The seventy-four parts issued previous to 1885—consisting of 8,800 pages—can be had for £18 10s. The subscription for 1885 was £3 10s. The Catalogue is issued to subscribers only. Proposals to subscribe (accompanied—in the case of subscribers at a distance—with the name of a London agent to pay the subscription-money and receive the copies) should be addressed to the principal librarian of the British Museum, London.

During the last financial year (1884-5) the number of volumes which have been consulted in the reading-room of the British Museum amounts to 1,100,450. The number of readers during the year has been 154,729. No less than 31,747 volumes and pamphlets have been added to the library in the course of the year, of which 3,376 were presented and 10,127 received in pursuance of the law of English copyright, 1,486 received under the International Copyright Treaties, and 5,835 acquired by purchase; 2,890 parcels of newspapers have also been received, and the number of volumes bound is 21,621.

The building newly erected on the east side of the British Museum, and now known as the "White Wing," will contain two or three large rooms to be specially fitted for the reception of English newspapers. Readers will be allowed to consult the volumes without

writing the usual tickets, and thus will be able to obtain any information at once.

We have already, under the head of the First Free Library established after the passing of William Ewart's Act, referred to the Free Library at Manchester. During the first year of its working it issued to readers in the Reference Department, 61,080 volumes, and from the Lending Department, 77,232 volumes, making a total issue of 138,312 volumes. The registered burgesses of Manchester, numbered in 1852, 12,542, and when the poll was taken on the question, "Shall a Library rate be levied?" for the maintenance and extension of the Library, 4,002 voted. Of these, 3,962 were in favour of the rate, and *only forty were against it*. After allowing for deaths and departures since the framing of the register, the opponents were $\frac{1}{313}$ of the whole.

The noble part taken by Sir John Potter, James Crossley, and other public men of that time, now gone to their rest, will ever remain part of the history of Manchester, and had Manchester and Manchester men set no other example to the community than this, she would have worthily done her share for the welfare and enlightenment of the country.

The city has now one Reference Library and six Lending Libraries. The Reference Library, of which Mr. Lawrence Dillon is librarian, has now a permanent home in the old Town Hall.

When Manchester built her new Town Hall, without exception the finest building of its kind in

the country, she could not have more worthily utilized the old and historic building, which had for so many years been the home of the Corporation, than by utilizing it as a Reference Library. The entrance hall and staircase contain numerous busts of leading Manchester men, and engravings which take the mind back to the days of the Chartists and the cotton famine. The entire building has a sombre but studious aspect, and the sight of those walls lined with books is a sight sufficient to answer book-hunger to its fullest extent.

The old Campfield Library opened in 1852, was closed in 1877, and on February 11th, 1878, the Reference Library was reopened in the present building. The plan seems to us a most excellent one of having one Central Reference Library, and the branches used as Lending Departments, news-rooms, &c.

We have before us a copy of the last report, 1883-4, published at the date we are writing, and it will be useful to quote some statistics from it. The number of volumes in the Reference Library at that time was as follows :—

Theology and Philosophy	.. ..	6,292
History, Travels, &c.	.. ..	19,485
Politics and Commerce	.. ..	12,900
Science and Arts	.. ..	11,783
Literature and Polygraphy	.. ..	21,199
Specifications of Patents	.. ..	4,338
		<hr/>
Total		75,997
		<hr/>

The issues in the Reference Library during that year were as follows:—

	Week-days.	Sundays.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy ..	11,171	726	11,897
History, Travels, &c. ..	41,209	2,496	43,705
Politics and Commerce ..	53,626	1,369	54,995
Science and Arts	63,618	4,097	67,715
Literature and Polygraphy ..	85,556	5,599	91,155
Specifications of Patents ..	9,354	55	9,409
Total	264,534	14,342	278,876

GENERAL SUMMARY.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE LIBRARIES SINCE THEIR FOUNDATION.

	Reference Library.	Lending Department.	TOTAL.
1st Year, 1852-3 ..	15,744	7,195	22,939
5th „ 1856-7 ..	25,858	10,029	35,887
10th „ 1861-2 ..	31,604	28,743	60,347
15th „ 1866-7 ..	39,264	44,705	83,969
20th „ 1871-2 ..	46,614	72,462	119,076
21st „ 1872-3 ..	50,508	76,584	127,092
22nd „ 1873-4 ..	52,540	78,395	130,935
23rd „ 1874-5 ..	53,821	79,066	132,887
24th „ 1875-6 ..	55,273	80,440	135,713
25th „ 1876-7 ..	56,480	80,921	137,401
26th „ 1877-8 ..	58,554	82,928	141,482
27th „ 1878-9 ..	61,171	85,306	146,477
28th „ 1879-80 ..	63,772	83,554	147,326
29th „ 1880-1 ..	67,700	87,685	155,385
30th „ 1881-2 ..	70,320	90,449	160,769
31st „ 1882-3 ..	73,308	94,194	167,502
32nd „ 1883-4 ..	75,997	96,493	172,490

SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICS OF THE LENDING LIBRARIES.

VOLUMES USED, 1883 AND 1884. — Number of volumes lent for home use, 670,110; number of volumes used in the reading-rooms on week-days, 76,603; number of volumes used in the reading-rooms on Sundays, 9,859; number of volumes used in the boys' rooms on week-days, 218,616; number of volumes used in the boys' rooms on Sundays, 66,329; total number of volumes used, 1,041,517; daily average of volumes used, 2,901.

READERS AND BORROWERS.—Number of borrowers (*i.e.*, the number of times they have used the Libraries), 609,657; number of readers (*i.e.*, users of books in the general reading-rooms) on week-days, 73,123; number of readers on Sundays, 9,529; number of readers in the boys' rooms on week-days, 218,616; number of readers in the boys' rooms on Sundays, 66,329; total number of readers and borrowers, 977,254. Estimated number of times persons have used the news-rooms and the reading-room of the Reference Library, 2,507,900; daily average of persons using the libraries and reading-rooms, 7,025.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—Number of borrowers' cards issued, 13,634; number of borrowers' cards cancelled, 11,237; number of borrowers' cards transferred, 540; number of borrowers' cards now in force, 37,518.

BOOKS LOST.—Volumes lost by borrowers and paid for by them, 72; volumes lost by borrowers and paid for

by guarantors, 21 ; volumes lost by borrowers and not yet recovered, 30.

LIBRARY STOCK.—Volumes bound, 7,164 ; volumes withdrawn as worn-out, 3,325 ; volumes withdrawn as duplicates or useless, 1,045 ; additions to the libraries (including replacement of worn-out books), 6,785 ; total number of volumes now in the Lending Libraries, 96,493.

One special feature of the Manchester work is that of special reading-rooms for boys, the sixth now provided, every branch having a boys' reading-room. At the opening of the last, in connection with the Rochdale Road Branch Free Library, in October, 1885, there was no formal ceremony, but as soon as the door was opened there was a rush of juvenile readers, and the room was soon well filled. This branch library, which is situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, was opened on June 4, 1860. In 1870 the building was enlarged by including in it the portion which had previously been used as the dwelling of the librarian. Since that time the use of the library and news-room has very much increased, and the Libraries Committee have recently expended about £3,200 on enlarging the building, by greatly extending the reading-room, by providing more accommodation for the books in the lending department, and by providing a special room for boys. This part of the work of the Manchester Free Library is receiving rapid development. The number of boys who assembled in the several reading-rooms in an evening caused so much inconvenience to grown-up readers as to suggest the desirability of getting up

rooms specially for them, and in January, 1878, a room was prepared for them at the Ancoats Branch. This was so great a success as to lead to the opening of boys' rooms at the other branch libraries. The following are the dates of opening:—Chorlton, November, 1878; Hulme, September, 1880; Deansgate, April, 1882; Cheetham, December, 1883. The extent to which they are appreciated is indicated by the following statement of the number of volumes issued to readers in the Boys' Evening Reading-rooms on week-days and Sundays during the past year:—

			Week-days.	Sundays.
Hulme Branch	..	..	69,426	21,610
Ancoats Branch	..	..	48,174	14,032
Chorlton Branch	..	..	40,818	14,450
Cheetham Branch	..	..	49,073	14,979
Deansgate Branch	..	..	30,513	12,484
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	238,004	77,555

All honour to Manchester for what she is doing to provide boys with reading-rooms, a feature in the work of Free Public Libraries to which too much importance cannot be attached. The whole of the work of the Manchester Free Libraries is under the able direction of Mr. Charles William Sutton, and the sub-librarian is Mr. William Robert Credland.

The Public Free Libraries Committee of the Manchester Corporation, in their annual report, which was issued in December, 1885, state that during the thirty-three years which have elapsed since the foundation of the Free Libraries, the result of the labours of the Committee has never been more striking than during the past year.

In the twelve months the number of visits made by the public to the various libraries and newsrooms reached an aggregate of nearly two millions and three-quarters, which is upwards of 230,000 more than in the previous year, and 430,000 in excess of the year 1882-3. There has been a similar increase in the number of volumes read. The number used for reading at home or in the reading-rooms has been 1,381,149, against 1,320,393 volumes in the preceding twelve months, and 1,191,588 in the year before. The daily average of volumes used in all the libraries was 3,847. Of the volumes issued to readers, 283,232 were used in the reference library, 396,428 in the reading-rooms attached to the branches, and 701,489 were lent out for home reading. As regards the use made of the branch libraries on Sundays, the Committee are able again to report an increase, 8,513 volumes have been used by 8,148 readers in the general reading-rooms, and 77,555 have been issued in the boys' rooms. In the Reference Library, 13,554 volumes have been consulted, the average being 265 each Sunday, against 276 in the previous year. The readers of magazines and newspapers at the branches on Sundays have been nearly 160,000. The total number of persons who have entered the libraries on Sundays has been 245,700, or an average of 4,818 each Sunday. In the previous year the total was 212,150, and the average 4,250. In the boys' rooms, which are open each evening, 315,559 volumes have been used, being an increase of 30,614. There are now 176,157 volumes of books in the libraries. The number in the Reference Library is 78,551, and in the six branches, 97,606. The addition to the stock

of books is 6,903 volumes. The number of volumes withdrawn from the lending libraries as worn out, is 1,648, and as otherwise unserviceable, 1,487. The donations include many interesting additions to the libraries, but special reference is made to a gift from the chairman of the committee (Sir Thomas Baker) of 500 volumes, including a valuable collection of books and pamphlets illustrating the early history of Nonconformity in Manchester. The number of volumes bound during the year for the branch libraries has been 7,157, and for the Reference Library 1,398. In addition to this work, about 1,700 volumes have been bound or repaired by two binders employed at the Reference Library, and 4,080 have been lettered or numbered by them for the branches. The number of persons holding tickets entitling them to the privilege of borrowing from the libraries is 38,422, and during the year they have made 643,200 applications for books, showing that each borrower has been supplied with books on an average 17 times in the 12 months. Out of the 701,489 volumes issued to them only 24 are missing.

No visitor to Liverpool could fail to notice the handsome range of buildings at the head of Lime-street, and they are buildings which reflect infinite credit upon the public spirit of that busy city, and our sincere wish is that every large town possessed what Liverpool possesses, and further that as much use was made of all other Free Libraries as is made of the one situated in the second seaport of the United Kingdom.

The closing meeting for the municipal year of the

Free Library Museum and Arts Committee on October 22nd, 1885, enables us to give the latest statistics of these institutions. Sir James Picton presided.

The Mayor said he would take that opportunity to thank the committee for the kind manner in which they had granted him the use of the Art Gallery, Museum, Reading-room, and Library on the occasion of his *soirée* to working men. He would also thank the various officials for the admirable manner in which they

LIVERPOOL FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

had carried out the necessary arrangements. He had received a letter from Mr. Gray Hill, the president of the Liverpool Incorporated Law Society, expressing the thanks of the society for having had thrown open to them the Art Gallery and Libraries. Sir James Picton said that the committee were always delighted to make the institutions in their care as useful as they possibly could. Mr. Rathbone's report on the proposed museum of casts was adopted, and it was also resolved, on the

motion of Mr. Alderman Samuelson, that the Council be recommended to grant £500 towards this fund. Mr. Cowell, librarian, presented the following statistics for the week ending October 21st:—Reference Library: 12,685 volumes issued during the week, or an average of 2,536 per day. Lending Libraries: North, 4,054 volumes issued during the week, or an average of 675 per day; South, 3,729 volumes issued during the week, or an average of 621 per day. The attendance at the Branch Evening Reading-rooms had been—Stanley-road, 486, or an average of 81 per day; Queen's-road, 378, or an average of 63 per day; Chatsworth-street, 452, or an average of 75 per day; Wellington-road, 300, or an average of 50 per day. Mr. Moore, curator of the museum, reported that there had been 4,339 visitors during the week to that institution, representing an average of 1,084 per day. Mr. Dyall, curator of the Walker Art Gallery, reported that there had been 13,353 visitors to the gallery during the week, or an average of 2,208 per day. At the conclusion of the business of the committee, Mr. Alderman Samuelson said that he had the privilege, before they retired, of proposing a vote of thanks to Sir James Picton, their chairman. He made the proposal then with more than ordinary pleasure, as Sir James would come before the electors in November, and he (the speaker) hoped that Sir James would often have that opportunity. A vote of thanks was now proposed to him in that committee for the thirty-third time. Mr. P. H. Rathbone seconded the motion, and hoped that the Library Committee would long have the benefit of Sir James

Picton's care in connection with those institutions, which for completeness, in comparison with the size, were the first in the United Kingdom. The motion was carried. Sir James Picton said it was very gratifying that any services he had rendered to those institutions should meet with such a cordial acknowledgment. After referring to the valuable services which Mr. Alderman Samuelson had rendered the public in connection with the Walker Art Gallery, Mr. Lunt in the promotion of lectures, and Mr. Higgins in connection with the natural history section, he said he looked forward to the extension of those institutions to Byrom-street, as they were already hampered and harassed for want of space.

Much of the success of the Liverpool Free Library and its sister buildings is due to the active interest which Sir James Allanson Picton, F.S.A., has for thirty-three years shown in these institutions. We give a portrait of this gentleman, and we hope for him many further years of service in this direction. His son, Mr. J. A. Picton, M.P., in his book, "Oliver Cromwell," inscribed that work to him, as "one who, like the great Protector, ever regarded public services as the end for which a man is born, and also, like Cromwell, recognized in devotion to humanity, the practical worship of God." The words of a son, but words which very fitly describe the public work of his father.

Mr. Peter Cowell is chief librarian; Mr. Thomas Formby, sub-librarian; Mr. Thomas J. Moore, curator of the Museum; and Mr. Charles Dyall, curator of the Walker Art Gallery.

Mr. Cowell is a worthy public servant. From the last report, we extract the following:—"The Library also is rapidly gaining upon the space provided, both in regard to the storage of books and the accommodation of readers. The introduction of newspapers into

SIR J. A. PICTON, F.S.A.

the Brown Reading-room has been felt as a great boon, by the working class especially. It has been found necessary to double the original provision, and thus to encroach on the space for readers of books. Some relief has been obtained by transferring the

magazines to the Picton Reading-room, which draws away a considerable number, and thus gives more accommodation. Reference was made in the last report to the proposed establishment of branch reading-rooms in different parts of the city. This has now been carried out with complete success. From the statistics below it will be seen that four reading-rooms have been opened, with a collective average attendance of 160 each night."

A third volume of the general catalogue has been recently issued. It may here be stated that the plan and arrangement of the Liverpool catalogue has met with general approbation, numerous applications being made from various Public Libraries for copies as models to be followed.

The serious injury to the bindings of the books by the fumes of the gas and the foul air poisoning the atmosphere, led to the trial of the electric light, which was found so successful that a contract has been entered into for lighting the whole of the Library and Reading-rooms in this way at an expense rather below that of the gaslight.

On a recent visit to Liverpool I found in the Free Library on an afternoon some 400 persons, mostly young men of the working classes, all engaged in reading periodicals and works of lighter literature, while in an adjoining room were about 160 readers of books that require closer study. Many of these readers and students were men out of work through the state of trade, of which the attendance at the library is a sort of barometer, but it is always large.

THE STATISTICS OF THE YEAR'S WORK IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE I.—Showing the Books issued during the year :—

Classification.	Volumes.	Daily Average
Theology, Morals, &c.	25,085	87
Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, &c.	21,742	77
Natural History	8,597	31
Science and the Arts	32,781	115
History and Biography	30,161	105
Topography and Antiquities	8,983	31
Voyages and Travels	13,045	45
Miscellaneous Literature (principally col- lected Works, Magazines in Volumes, &c.)	147,241	515
Jurisprudence, Law, and Politics	6,256	21
Commerce, Political Economy, and Statistics	4,839	17
Education and Language	10,504	37
Poetry and Dramatic Literature	13,447	47
Prose Fiction	215,403	755
Latin and Greek Classics and Translations	4,837	17
Heraldry, Encyclopædias, and Works of Reference	56,923	199
Total	599,844	2,099

TABLE II.—Showing the issues of Quarterly and
Monthly Magazines :—

Classification.	Magazines.	Daily Average
Theology, Morals, &c.	3,496	13
Natural Philosophy, &c.	2,283	8
Natural History	1,651	5
Science and the Arts	5,607	19
Topography and Antiquities	1,978	7
Voyages and Travels	1,306	5
Miscellaneous Literature	163,643	573
Commerce, Political Economy, and Statistics	1,611	5
Education and Language	1,387	5
Total	182,961	640

TABLE III.—Showing the issues of Weekly Periodicals, &c. :—

Classification.	Periodicals.	Daily Average.
Natural Philosophy, &c.	1,219	4
Natural History	919	3
Science and the Arts	1,812	6
Miscellaneous Literature (principally illustrated and literary periodicals)	206,461	723
Law and Politics	1,335	5
Commerce, Statistics, &c.	1,269	5
Total	213,015	746

Total Patents for inventions consulted, 21,666. Daily average, 75.

LENDING LIBRARIES.

TABLE I.—General Statistics :—

	1884.			1883.		
	North Library.	South Library.	TOTAL.	North Library.	South Library.	TOTAL.
Volumes lent	202,840	188,649	391,489	202,710	176,102	378,812
New tickets issued	2,313	2,247	4,560	2,296	2,139	4,435
Tickets renewed	2,198	1,820	4,018	2,142	1,894	4,036
Tickets cancelled	2,240	2,213	4,453	2,344	2,538	4,882
Total No. of readers on the books	4,484	4,149	8,633	4,411	4,155	8,526
Books lost or injured, and paid for	21	29	50	25	27	52
Books lost	—	—	—	—	—	—
Volumes worn out—withdrawn	237	1,479	1,716	—	—	—
Volumes worn out—replaced	838	371	1,209	443	411	854
New volumes added	564	570	1,134	513	488	1,001
Total No. of volumes in the libraries	22,805	21,970	44,775	22,478	22,879	45,357

TABLE II.—Showing the Classification of Volumes lent and added :—

	Volumes Lent.			Volumes Added.		
	North Library.	South Library	TOTAL.	North Library	South Library.	TOTAL.
Theology	3,891	3,177	7,068	26	23	49
Natural Philosophy ..	3,037	2,664	5,701	19	19	38
Natural History ..	2,310	1,870	4,180	11	13	24
Science and Arts ..	9,261	6,738	15,999	28	22	50
History and Biography	9,517	7,908	17,425	49	43	92
Topography and Anti- quities	973	937	1,910	8	7	15
Voyages and Travels ..	5,424	4,931	10,355	27	26	53
Miscellaneous Literature	12,297	10,650	22,947	95	100	195
Jurisprudence, Law, and Politics	327	265	592	5	4	9
Commerce and Political Economy	596	630	1,226	8	11	19
Education, Languages, and Logic	1,802	1,384	3,186	6	4	10
Poetry and the Drama ..	1,215	1,680	2,895	11	7	18
Prose Fiction	151,963	145,289	297,252	271	291	562
Latin and Greek Classics	176	266	442	—	—	—
Books for the Blind ..	51	260	311	—	—	—
TOTAL	202,840	188,649	391,489	564	570	1134

The Birmingham Chief Library is *par excellence* the finest building of its kind in the United Kingdom. The serious damage done by the fire which occurred on January 11th, 1879, was felt to be a calamity which affected not Birmingham alone, but the country, for many valuable books were entirely destroyed. The fire broke out on the Saturday, and on the following Monday a special meeting of the Free Libraries Committee was held, and it was resolved to ask for a public

subscription of at least £10,000 towards the restoration, and it is not a little to the credit of

BIRMINGHAM REFERENCE LIBRARY.

(Reproduced from photograph by Messrs. Bedford, Lemere, & Co.)

Birmingham that £14,147 10s. 3d. was raised for this purpose.

Mr. J. D. Mullins, the accomplished chief librarian and superintendent of the Art Gallery and Museum, has held this post for many years with credit to himself and to the community of librarians. His little book, pub-

BIRMINGHAM REFERENCE LIBRARY AND TEMPORARY MUSEUM.

(Reproduced from photograph by Messrs. Bedford, Lemere, & Co.)

lished by Messrs. Sotheran and Co., entitled "Free Libraries and News Rooms," has done capital service in placing briefly forward the leading objects and management of Free Libraries. He has been supported in his

work by a staff of able and courteous assistants, and has at all times shown a willingness to adopt new and improved methods, and we congratulate Mr. Mullins on the useful work he has done in furthering the Free Library movement.

The following is a description, extracted from the *Birmingham Daily Post* of June 2nd, 1882, of the building as finally restored :—

The building is approached by a handsome portico 32 feet wide and 12 feet in depth, and three doorways, with wrought-iron gates of highly ornamental design, enriched by gilding, afford entrance to the vestibule. The vestibule is 29 feet wide by 20 feet deep, and is divided from the entrance hall by a glazed oak screen, with polished granite pillars and carved panels. The entrance hall is of magnificent proportions, being 28 feet wide, 60 feet long, and 45 feet high. At the farther end is the staircase leading to the upper floor; and upon the right are the doors to the Lending Library and news room. These doors are arched over with two arches contained in a larger outer arch. The space between is filled with alabaster and Caen stone, arranged in patterns, and with medallions of painted tiles, the whole forming a very charming piece of work. The news room, which occupies the site of the former lending library, with a considerable space added at the entrance end, is a lofty, well-lighted, and well-ventilated apartment, having a length of about 100 feet, and a breadth of 64 feet. A series of iron columns, with large foliated brackets, support the girders, from which spring the brick arches forming the roof. The first

few columns on the left-hand side divide the room from the Lending Library, the principal portion of which projects at right angles, the two apartments being arranged in the form of the letter L. The news room (see engraving), which receives its light from a double series of windows along Ratcliff-place and Edmund-street, is furnished with desks and tables of polished oak. The Lending Library is 82 feet long by 75 feet wide, and has its walls covered with bookshelves, while a long and somewhat semi-circular counter affords ample convenience for the borrowers and the library assistants. Light is afforded by means of five large windows facing the south, ornamented with panels of stained glass. The height of these two rooms is 26 feet. Both of them are appropriately and simply decorated with bands of colour following the lines of the architecture, the prominent tints being blue, green, pink, and white. Returning to the hall, the visitor will be struck by the fulness, yet simplicity, of colour and ornament. The walls throughout are of deep red brick, toned in the arches with terra cotta of a delicate buff; and this arrangement contrasts admirably with the rich encaustic tiling of the floor, and with the broad stone staircase, starting from a beautifully carved oak newel, and guarded by a boldly designed iron balustrade, finished by a moulded oak handrail. The staircase, which is nine feet broad, is divided into three portions, each with a broad landing approached by a short flight of easy steps. The walls of the staircase are panelled, and are ornamented with terra cotta and pressed bricks. The lower part of the wall of the hall,

the staircase, and the landings is lined with wall tiling, of geometrical design, in pale blue and white. The staircase is lighted by three large and lofty windows, set in a curve—these windows are subdivided by stone mullions and arches, and are filled with stained glass of exquisitely graceful design and delightful colour—combining in a remarkable degree the characteristics of richness and lightness. The upper flight of the staircase gives access to the Reference Library (see engraving), which is entered through a double pair of oak swing doors, leading to a vestibule or inner porch, of oak. The Reference Library is divided into two rooms, which, taken together, may be roughly described, like the rooms below, as of the shape of the letter L. The larger of the two, which is to be used as the library proper, is 100 feet long by 64 feet broad, and 50 feet high to the under side of the ridge of the roof. The smaller room, used as a temporary Art Gallery, and partly shut off by a low screen, is 62 feet long by 45 feet wide, and 42 feet high. Out of this smaller room the Shakespeare Library opens; it is 30 feet long and 21 feet wide. There is a marked difference of construction in the two main rooms. The smaller—the Art Gallery—is roofed in one elliptical span, the arched roof being carried on a series of wrought-iron ribs or girders; this room is lighted wholly from the roof, and so also is the Shakespeare Library. The Great Reference Library is divided into a centre and two aisles by a series of richly-coloured granite piers and columns. Over these, to form the main division, are turned a series of arches in Ancaster stone, and over

these arches a band of deeply-panelled work runs round the building. Above the arches are a series of clerestory windows, affording the principal light. These windows are filled with stained glass, of a character similar to that in the staircase windows. Additional light is furnished by skylights in part of the roof. The centre portion of the room, as above mentioned, is 50 feet in height; the aisles are 23 feet in height. These contain the oak presses for books, and they are divided from the centre portion of the room by a broad oak counter. Round the whole of the room, and also round the temporary Art Gallery, is carried a light gallery of open ironwork, giving access to the upper shelves. This is approached by spiral iron staircases. At the entrance end of the Great Library is placed an ornamental oak bookcase, with glazed sliding doors, stretching right across the room, and rising to two-thirds of its height. This is a marked feature of the building, and is highly enriched with carving, and with gilt metal work in the gallery which runs along the front of it. In the upper panels are inscribed the names of the chief donors to the collection, beginning with that of her Majesty the Queen. In this bookcase it is intended to place books of special quality. The whole of the fittings throughout the rooms are of oak, solidly constructed, admirably finished, and arranged in accordance with the latest improvements suggested by the experience of great libraries. The Shakespeare Library, on which special care in decoration has been lavished, is a sumptuous room, Elizabethan in design, having enclosed bookcases throughout, and being enriched wherever possible with

carved panelling. The upper parts of the bookcases are finished with screens of gilt metal work.

It is impossible by any description to convey an adequate idea of the appearance of the rooms we have just noticed, or to do justice to the richness, the beauty, and the variety of the ornament bestowed upon them. We may safely say that no nobler libraries are to be found in the kingdom; certainly there are none which are so beautiful. Boldness of construction, simplicity and harmony of design, grandeur of proportion, amplitude of space, and richness and gracefulness of decoration mark them out as alone amongst buildings of their class. As regards the decoration, the most unobservant visitor cannot fail to be struck with its almost infinite variety of design. Wherever we turn, we find in the wealth of carving and the flush of colour evidences of originality and individuality, which indicate at once inexhaustible fancy and endless labour. These the visitor must be left to trace out at leisure for himself; no description can paint them for him. The same manifestation of skill in the use of colour apparent in the interior decorations is visible also in the exterior design of the Edmund-street front, where marble, terra-cotta, brick, painted tiles, and mosaic have been employed with admirable effect; so as to produce an edifice which worthily recalls the richest and finest effects of Italian art.

The buildings are heated by an apparatus combining both the hot-air and hot-water system, while the artificial light is provided partly by what are known as sunlights and partly by lanterns. Rooms are provided for the storage and repair of books and for other

purposes connected with the management of the Libraries.

As soon as the date of opening could be fixed, the Free Libraries Committee requested the mayor to solicit the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., to deliver the opening address, and we wish that space permitted us to quote at length the speech he then made. In the course of it he said:—"What is a great love of books? It is in point of fact something like a personal introduction to the great and good men of all past times. Books, it is true, are silent as you see them on their shelves, but silent as they are, I think—to me it is so—that when I enter a library I feel as if almost the dead were present, and I know if I could put questions to these books they would answer me with all the faithfulness and fulness which have been left in them by the great men who have left the books to us. Have none of us, or may I not say, are there any of us who have not felt some of this feeling when in a great library—I don't mean in a library quite so big as that in the British Museum or the Bodleian Library at Oxford, where books are so many that they seem rather to overwhelm one—but libraries that are not absolutely unapproachable in their magnitude? . . . I have had the opportunity of spending a quiet hour in the library at Windsor Castle. I have been in other great libraries; I recollect many years ago at Woburn Abbey, at an occasion not so long ago at Chatsworth, and there are hundreds of libraries throughout this country which are of the kind that I describe—such that when you are within their walls and see these shelves, and these

thousands of volumes, and consider for a moment who they are that wrote them, who has gathered them together, for whom they are intended, how much wisdom they contain, what they will tell to future ages, it is impossible not to feel something of solemnity and of tranquillity when you are spending time in rooms like these ; and if you come to houses of less note you find libraries that are of great estimation and which in a less degree are able to afford mental aliment to those who are connected with them, and I am bound to say—and if anyone cares very much for some other things he will not blame me when I say—you may have in a house costly pictures and costly ornaments, and a great variety of decorations, yet so far as my judgment goes, I would prefer to have one comfortable room well stocked with books to all that you can give me of the decorations which even the highest art can supply. The only subject of lamentation is—one feels that always, I think, in the presence of a library—that life is too short, and I am afraid I must say also that our industry is so far deficient that we seem to have no hope of the full enjoyment of the ample repast that is spread before us. . . . My own impression is that there is no blessing that can be given to an artizan's family more than a love of books. The home influence of such a possession is one which will guard them from many temptations and from many evils. How common it is—in all classes too common, but how common it is amongst what are termed the working classes—I have seen it many times in my district, where even an industrious and careful parent has found that his son

or his daughter has been to him a source of great trouble and great pain. No doubt, if it were possible, even in one of these homes to have one single person who was a lover of books, and knows how to spend an evening usefully with a book, and who could occasionally read something from the book to the rest of the family, perhaps to his aged parents, how great would be the blessing to the family, how great a safeguard would be afforded, and then to the men themselves, when they came—as in the case which I have mentioned—to the feebleness of age, and when they can no longer work, and when the sands of life are, as it were, ebbing out, what can be more advantageous, what more a blessing, than in these hours of feebleness—may be sometimes of suffering—it must be often of solitude—if there be the power to derive instruction and amusement and refreshment from books which your great library will offer to everyone? To the young especially this is of great importance, for if there be no seed-time there will certainly be no harvest, and the youth of life is the seed-time of life. I see in this great meeting a great number of young men. It is impossible for anybody to confer upon them a greater blessing than if he could stimulate them to a firm belief that to them now and to them during all their lives it may be a priceless gain that they should associate themselves constantly with this library and draw from it any book they like. The more they read the more in all probability they will like and wish to read. Mr. Lewis Morris, in his late charming poem called ‘The Ode of Life’—in that part of it dedicated to youth, and in addressing

the imaginary youth of whom he is writing — he says:—

‘For thee the fair poetic page is spread,
Of the great living, and the greater dead;
To thee the greater gains of science lie
Stretched open to thine eye.’

“What can be better than this; than the fair poetic page, the great instruction of history, the gains of science—all these are laid before us, and of these we may freely partake. I spoke of the library in the beginning of my observations as a fountain of refreshment and instruction and wisdom. Of it may be said that he who drinks shall still thirst, and thirsting for knowledge and still drinking, we may hope that he will grow to a greater mental and moral stature, more useful as a citizen, and more noble as a man.”

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., said:—

“I agree with Mr. Bright in his estimate of the value of small collections of books, and I do not doubt that a few volumes, well read and properly comprehended, may be more valuable to their possessor, more truly an object of joy and gratification to him, than the vast collection of some millionaire who knows only of his books, the name of the printer, the date of the edition, and the place at which the book was produced. And as all of us have our favourite authors to whom we turn again and again with ever renewed satisfaction and pleasure, so it is in the power of almost all of us—there are very few who are so poor that they cannot at all events have in their possession these special subjects of their delight and appreciation. But that is not enough, because I am a great believer in the advantages

of miscellaneous reading. I believe that by it we open our mind to new ideas, we widen our sympathies and expand our intellectual and moral horizon ; and I know also that for the student who desires to pursue thoroughly any subject it is absolutely necessary that he should have access to books, many of which are costly, many of which are very difficult to obtain, even to the richest of single individuals, but which it is in the power of a community to provide for all its members alike. And in this provision there is no favour conferred; it is a right which is enjoyed by all. Sir, I have often thought that that is a kind of Communism which the least revolutionary among us may be proud to advocate. It imparts, it gives to every man a sense of possession and knowledge of rights and privileges of property which cannot, I think, constitute any danger to the property of others."

We regret that lack of space prevents our saying more of the Birmingham Free Libraries. The author of this little work has visited the leading Free Libraries of the United States, but has not been in finer and more conveniently arranged buildings than those of the capital of the Midlands.

The Free Library work at Leeds is distinguished by considerable vigour, and this town stands almost alone in the extensive use now being made of the Board School buildings, to which we have referred under another chapter. At the time of my completing this work, the report for 1885 had not been issued, and I extract some particulars from the report for 1883-84.

The total issues for that year show an increase of 10,000 volumes, the totals being 652,594 volumes as compared with 642,175 volumes in the previous year. The principal feature of the year has been the removal of the library from the premises in Infirmary Street to the Municipal Offices, which was effected with great expedition, so as not to interfere with the public convenience. The change has proved beneficial both to the public and the officials, in consequence of the extended space allotted to each department, better ventilation, and the lighting by electricity. The architectural effects of the new library premises have been much admired. A room was specially prepared for bound volumes of newspapers, parliamentary blue books, and specifications of patents, for reference.

On June 5th the News-room (1st floor) was opened without any break in the time. Considerable additions have been made to the number of newspapers taken. The Lending Library (2nd floor), consisting of 31,000 volumes, was opened in its new home on June 18th, 1884, the issues ceasing for two days only.

On July 2nd, 1884, the Reference Library (3rd floor), consisting of 32,000 volumes, was opened, nine days only elapsing for the removal.

REFERENCE LIBRARY. — There were 78,986 issues, being an increase of 5,153 on the previous year. On comparing the last quarterly returns for 1883 and 1884, it will be found that a conspicuous change has taken place in the class of books issued. The miscellaneous class of Literature has decreased one half (nearly 3,000 volumes), whilst the more solid reading has increased in

CLASSIFICATION OF THE TRADES, &c., OF THOSE WHO CONSULTED WORKS OF
REFERENCE, 1883-84.

SOME PROMINENT FREE LIBRARIES.

77

TRADES, &c., 1883-84.	Proportional Issues.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K		L	M	N	O	P	Total of each Trade.
		Theology, Morals, &c.	Natural Philosophy.	Jurisprudence, Law, &c.	Social Science, Commerce.	Education, Language.	Topography, Antiquities.	Classical Literature.	Miscellaneous Literature, &c.	Natural History, &c.	Science and Art. Specifications of Patents.	General History.	Biography, Diaries, &c.	Poetry and the Drama.	Geography, Voyages, and Emigration.	Directories, Dictionaries, &c.		
Artisans ..	28.35	412	910	424	179	539	612	75	9,922	600	2275	169	1289	550	977	1305	2152	22,390
Metal Workers ..	6.22	72	239	102	28	99	69	51	1,777	103	983	146	257	123	97	374	386	4,906
Warehousemen ..	3.19	66	141	42	16	41	61	8	1,110	217	117	2	111	113	102	155	219	2,521
Woollen Operatives	1.76	22	35	30	12	15	38	5	766	25	87	26	89	64	29	64	81	1,388
Dyers ..	.28	..	1	1	1	3	3	..	126	17	24	..	17	3	2	11	18	227
Clerks ..	15.91	330	657	234	109	577	454	103	4,766	546	1248	103	483	228	440	585	1698	12,561
Teachers ..	3.94	131	240	91	32	217	98	111	796	87	211	1	197	80	188	159	477	3,116
Pupils ..	6.78	85	213	45	14	149	120	337	2,022	178	525	1	483	120	114	268	682	5,356
Shopkeepers ..	3.19	66	216	19	17	22	129	17	953	79	173	42	58	39	52	130	494	2,506
Shop Assistants ..	3.01	63	176	28	18	76	94	12	899	75	261	13	177	76	41	111	264	2,384
Manufacturers and Merchants }	1.89	13	49	30	4	5	45	4	186	39	337	73	16	13	131	33	520	1,498
Agents ..	2.64	63	41	79	8	36	86	3	499	29	201	176	99	31	40	62	634	2,087
Professional Men	22.35	698	723	308	113	147	916	94	3,505	507	2791	1975	530	337	563	681	3767	17,655
Females ..	.49	6	..	1	1	2	14	..	56	6	5	..	9	61	26	10	194	391
TOTAL ..	..	2027	3641	1434	552	1928	2739	820	27,383	2508	9238	2727	3815	1838	2802	3948	11586	78,986

like proportion. In order to afford facilities for easy reference, the current Home and Foreign Directories have been placed on the first floor in the news-room. This arrangement has so far proved satisfactory, for there has been an increase of 218 volumes issued in the last three months, upon the previous year.

THE CENTRAL LENDING LIBRARY.—The number of volumes issued during the year in the Central Lending Library was 275,885, against 266,296 in the previous year, being an increase of about 10,000 volumes. The total number of borrowers is now 10,633, being an increase of 2,280.

THE BRANCH LIBRARIES.—The Branch Lending Libraries have issued 297,723 volumes, being a decrease of 4,323 volumes upon last year. A new feature has here been introduced. The Committee have placed in charge of the School Board 2,000 volumes of Juvenile Literature, for the Carlton Hill and Green Lane Board Schools, to be issued by the teachers to the children attending these schools. This system is proving very satisfactory, and will probably be extended. The Rodley Branch Library has also been handed over to the School Board on like conditions. The total number of borrowers at the branches is 8,240, being a decrease of 367.

THE MUSEUM.—This is a new department of the Leeds Free Public Library.

The borough of Sheffield adopted the Act in 1855, and has now not only a chief or Central Library, as it is termed, but three branches, and the museum in connection with the Free Libraries to which we have referred

under the head of Museums. The Central Library, of which we give a sketch, is a building adapted for the purposes of a Free Library, and has for some years been found to be inadequate in accommodation; but we understand that the committee are looking forward to a considerable extension as soon as the funds will permit of the outlay.

SHEFFIELD CENTRAL FREE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes in the Chief Library is as follows:—

Lending department, 29,039; reference department, 10,740; making a total of 39,779.

The chief library is in the charge of Mr. Thomas Hurst and five assistants. Mr. Hurst has been at this

library almost the whole of his life, commencing first as an assistant, and then eventually promoted to the position he now occupies. He is a thoroughly efficient and practical librarian, and is supported by a committee of well-known Sheffield gentlemen, some of whom have served in this capacity for many years, and who have proved themselves true friends to the thousands of Sheffield's population who use the libraries. Six gentlemen to represent the ratepayers are on the committee, and give much time and useful aid to the work.

The first of the branches opened was at Upperthorpe, a suburb of the town, in 1869, and its first home was in part of the schoolroom of the Tabernacle Congregational Church, which has had for some years, and still has, a pastor, the Rev. T. W. Holmes, who has a marvellously intimate acquaintance with the inner contents of books. In 1876 a new building was opened, of which we show an engraving.

For a branch library this is one of the most convenient of any library of its size which we have seen, and for its arrangements, both exterior and interior, it may well be put forward as an excellent model.

The building is of red brick, with stone windows, doors, and corners, the results being pretty in the extreme. The first thing which strikes the observer is the entrance porch, which is 19 feet by 14 feet. The doorway is in itself a work of art. On each side at the top are two figures sculptured in stone, one representing "Science" and the other "Literature." In the centre is a handsome circular panel, through a head of granite,

and bearing an inscription from Thomas Carlyle:—
“There should be one man die ignorant who had the capacity for knowledge—this I call a tragedy—were it to happen more than twenty times a minute, which by some computations it does?” This distinguishing feature of the library is the gift of a Sheffield gentleman, an earnest advocate of the Free Library movement.

UPPERTHORPE BRANCH FREE LIBRARY, SHEFFIELD.

After entering the building there is a stone staircase 6 feet wide. The lending department is 47 feet by 30 feet. Immediately opposite the entrance is placed the counter and the indicator. The space out of the porch between the reading-room and the lending department is set apart for a waiting-room, and immediately opposite there is the entrance into the ladies' reading-room, which

is 30 feet by 22 feet, and attached to it is a lavatory and other conveniences for the comfort of the readers. The general reading-room is on the upper floor, and access to it is gained by the staircase at the entrance. It is 70 feet long by 30 feet wide. It has windows on all sides with an open timbered roof. As this room is entered by the staircase immediately opposite the counter, the librarian can see all who either leave or enter it. The librarian's office, used for committee meetings, is 15 feet by 15 feet. From this office there is a door communicating with the librarian's house. From the lending department to the reading-room there is a small spiral staircase for the use of the librarian only, so that it will be seen that the entire of the building is immediately under that official's control and supervision. The whole of the interior is lined with white brick, relieved by a few red bricks in bands and courses, giving an air of extreme comfort and warmth to the place. The architect was Mr. E. M. Gibbs, and the building cost about £6,000.

The last report for year ending August 31st, 1885, of these well-managed libraries states that the Central and Branch Libraries have each been open 276 days during the twelve months ending August 31st, 1885. The issues have been :—

From the Central Library	..	126,217 vols.,	or 457 vols. daily.
From the Upperthorpe Branch	..	83,450	„ 302 „
From the Brightside Branch	..	77,008	„ 279 „
From the Highfield Branch	..	109,551	„ 397 „
<hr/>			
Total	..	396,226	„ 1435 „

During the year 1883-4 the Central Library was open

working of the Public Libraries Act, and report upon the advisability of its adoption by this Council," which was carried. In December, 1871, this Committee presented a most exhaustive report, concluding as follows:—"Your Committee recommend that the Mayor be requested to convene a public meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Public Libraries Acts with a view to their adoption in this borough."

At a meeting of the Council in March in the following year, this report was discussed and adopted. On May 28th, 1872, a public meeting, presided over by the then Mayor, Alderman Gregson, was held in the Guildhall, Dr. Newton moving, and Dr. Rutherford seconding—"That this meeting, convened in accordance with the request of the Town Council, determines to adopt an Act for this borough for further promoting the establishment of Libraries and Museums; that his Worship the Mayor, as chairman of this meeting, cause a minute to be made of the foregoing resolution, and that he sign the same on behalf of the meeting and present the same to the Town Council." An amendment having been moved, and upon being put to the meeting, thirty votes were recorded for it, as against forty-eight for the original motion. The Mayor having declared the motion carried, a poll was demanded by the opponents of the measure; but the Mayor, acting under the advice of the Town Clerk, ruled that the amended Act of Parliament made no provision for such a demand. A protest was then handed to the Chairman on behalf of the opponents of the measure.

At the monthly meeting of the Council held on June 5th, the Mayor, in reply to Dr. Newton, stated that he could not sign the minute legalizing the adoption of the Acts, as a grave doubt existed as to the manner in which the meeting was conducted. After considerable discussion, Dr. Newton, on behalf of the supporters of the movement, undertook to give way, on the distinct understanding that an early opportunity would be afforded the town for the expression of its opinion. This was agreed to unanimously.

In February, 1874, a memorial was presented to the Mayor, who convened a town's meeting on March 2nd, under his own presidency, in the Town Hall. Dr. Newton moved, and Dr. Bruce seconded, a resolution in favour of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts, 1855, and the amended Act of 1866. The motion having been met with an amendment, a vote was taken, when the Mayor declared the resolution carried by a large majority, and the Public Libraries Acts adopted in and for the borough.

At the Council meeting on May 6th, 1874, Dr. Newton moved—"That the Public Libraries Act of 1855, and the Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1866, having been adopted for this borough, a committee be appointed, to be called the Public Libraries Committee, which was done.

The first difficulty which presented itself to the Committee after its appointment was connected with the obtaining of a site whereon to erect a building suitable to the requirements of the borough.

Nothing was satisfactorily accomplished in this

direction until September, 1878, when an agreement

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND NEWS-ROOM.

was entered into between the trustees of the Mechanics'

Institute and the Public Libraries Committee, whereby the Mechanics' Building and Library were to be handed over to the corporation on condition that the liabilities (amounting to £2,000) should be paid, and that the arts and science classes should be continued and extended, under the style and title of "Educational Department, Mechanics' Institution section of the Public Library," while nine members of the Committee of the Institute should be elected to serve on the Public Libraries Committee for a term of seven years. At the following meeting of the Council a motion was submitted to rescind the terms of this agreement; but upon a vote being taken, it was defeated by 29 votes to 12.

Other difficulties presented themselves, which need not be mentioned here. On Wednesday, February 4th, 1880, a contract was entered into for the erection of a new building, and its incorporation with the Mechanics' Institution, at a cost of £10,573 14s. 3d. This building was rapidly proceeded with, and the opening ceremony of the temporary lending library took place on September 13th, 1880, twenty-five years after the subject had been first introduced into the borough.

After this record we may say that were a poll now taken we venture to say that not five per cent. would say that the effort had been unwise, or the movement a failure. On the same day on which the temporary lending department was opened, the foundation stone of the present building was laid. It is a handsome structure, and the main room on the first floor, which is intended for the reference department, is a beautiful apartment 130 feet long.

During the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Newcastle in August, 1884, they had consented to declare the Reference Library open.

The Mayor, in asking (on August 20th, 1884) His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to open the Reference Department, said—"I have the honour to invite your Royal Highness to inaugurate the permanent building, and to open the Reference Department of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library. It is established under the provisions of the Public Libraries Act of 1850, which was promoted in Parliament by the late William Ewart, to whose memory the catalogue of this institution is dedicated. So great has been the success which has attended the establishment of rate-supported libraries in this country, that, at the present time, there are more than one hundred in active operation in cities and towns with populations varying from six thousand to half a million inhabitants. The number of volumes contained in these libraries exceeds 1,775,000, while the issue over the year is little short of 11,000,000 volumes. The Reference Library which your Royal Highnesses have graced to-day with your Royal presence and approval, contains 20,000 volumes, many of which are both rare and valuable, while all are useful. The entire stock in the Newcastle Library is 50,000 volumes, and during the three and a half years the Provisional Lending Library has been open to the public 1,000,000 volumes have been issued for home reading, while during the same period only 14 volumes have been lost. The beneficent influence of this and similar institutions, with their vast circulations, must be great indeed. They

will carry onward and upward the work of the public elementary schools, and supply a deficiency in our system of national education. Carlyle says, 'The true university of these days is a collection of books,' and there is none better than a Public Library, with its vast stores of intellectual wealth, within reach of all who desire to enjoy its advantages."

The Prince of Wales said—"I have great pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, in announcing that this Reference Library is now open."

The Mayor of Newcastle then presented their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales with beautifully bound copies of the catalogues of the Public Library.

The following tables show the stock in the Lending and Reference Libraries:—

LENDING LIBRARY.

Number of volumes from all sources at				
date of last Report	..	..	..	26,282
Added during the year—				
By Gift	..	..	..	57
By Purchase	..	..	..	835
			—	892
Total Stock in Lending Library	..	..	—	27,174

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Number of volumes from all sources at				
date of last Report	..	..	..	17,658
Added during the year:—				
By Gift, including Patents	..	..	..	591
By Purchase	..	..	..	3,916
			—	4,507
Total Stock in Reference Library	.	.	—	22,165

TOTAL STOCK.

Total Stock of volumes in both departments from all sources:—

From Mechanics' Institute Library ..	2,003
By Gift, including 3,343 volumes of Patents	6,642
By Purchase	40,694
	<hr/>
	49,339

Mr. W. J. Haggerston has been the chief librarian since the opening of the library, and has done himself and the town credit in his able administration.

The Free Public Library and Museum of Blackburn, Lancashire, is centrally situated in Library Street, which adjoins the Town Hall and the Exchange.

In September, 1853, the ratepayers of this town adopted the Libraries Act of 1850, although the Act was not carried into effect until February 17th, 1862, from which time the operations of the library have been continuous.

Since 1874 the Library and Museum have been in a specially constructed building. It is a handsome stone-built and fireproof edifice, with sculptured panels in the Mediæval Gothic style, erected at a cost, including the internal fittings, of about £12,000. On the ground floor are the reference and lending libraries, a commodious reading-room, &c.

The libraries contain upwards of 30,000 volumes, which are almost equally apportioned to the lending and reference departments.

The museum occupies the whole of the upper floor, comprising the south, west, and north museum galleries.

By donations, loans, and judicious purchases the contents of the museum have lately been considerably extended. It contains objects relating to antiquity, ethnology, geology, zoology, &c., a small collection of china, &c., good paintings, both in oil and water colours, besides many other noteworthy objects relating to art, &c.

This museum contains a very fine model of the steamship *City of Paris*.

The Library and Museum is much and deservedly prized by the inhabitants of the town, and the people of the surrounding district. Mr. D. Geddes is the librarian and curator. The library is open daily (Sundays excepted) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; the museum from 10 a.m. till dusk, except on Thursdays, when both are closed after 1 p.m., for cleaning, &c.

THE WALSHALL FREE LIBRARY.—The committee of this institution, in the report published in December,

1885, state that the working of the library has been most successful during the past year. Owing to the very handsome presents from the Trustees of the British Museum and others, the number of books in the reference department of the library has been considerably augmented, and there has consequently been a large accession to the number of readers in that department. The committee, at a cost of £60, have provided an extensive range of bookcases for the very valuable books received from the British Museum and other sources: and the great want now is proper accommodation for students and others to consult, with convenience, the books which are on the shelves, but which under existing regulations cannot be taken beyond the precincts of the building. The committee hope that in a short time they may be able to see their way to provide a students' room, where readers may be free from the bustle of the library and magazine room; and whilst not unmindful of the claims of the outlying districts of the borough, such as the Pleck and Caldmore, they felt that their best policy was, with the limited means at their disposal, to secure an official central establishment, which, after all, is within a reasonable distance for most parts of the borough, rather than have some two or three branch libraries, which would only impair the efficiency of the parent institution. The number of volumes in the library is 12,449, and, including 2,280 issued for reference, and 9,634 issued from the Bloxwich Branch Library (as against 6,879 last year), the number issued in the year was 75,037, as against 58,117 in the previous year.

Among the donors were the Queen ("Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands," and "More Leaves from the Journal of a Life in the Highlands"), 2 vols., with her Majesty's autograph; the Trustees of the British Museum, 209 vols.; the Public Record Office, 165 vols.

Stoke and Burslem have well-managed Free Libraries, and the one at Stoke is one of the five or six such institutions throughout the whole country that are open to the public on Sundays. To obviate any possible question as to the employment of labour on the Sunday in connection with the library, the members of the committee attend themselves in turn to fulfil the functions of the officers who look after the place throughout the week. A better or kindlier method of rendering the library a popular Sunday resort could not be found, and the system appears to have answered so well hitherto, that the committee consider themselves amply repaid for their kindness and trouble by the results obtained. The last yearly report of the committee of the Stoke Public Free Library shows that during last year there were recorded 394 out-door borrowers—*i.e.*, persons taking books from the library for home reading. Of these 394 borrowers, 154 were potters and artizans, of whom 129 were under twenty years of age, and 127 were women and girls. Throughout the year the lending-out department issued a daily average of 118 volumes. We regret, however, to state that financially the library is in low water. The rate realizes £270 per annum, and this is barely sufficient to meet all demands. The committee, in their report, say, "that by the death

of Mr. C. M. Campbell, the library has lost a good friend. Besides the kindly interest he always showed in its proceedings and success, the loss of his annual subscription of £50, and of £20 from the basement remaining unlet, is one of so serious a nature that the committee see no alternative before them (without sufficient annual subscriptions from the public) but to close the library and museum for about four years, so that the rate during that time might be devoted to the extinction of the debt, and relieve the accounts of the annual interest. To avoid this, the committee will shortly be compelled to appeal to the public for annual subscriptions, to which they have reason to hope, from the popularity of the institution, that there will be a liberal response." Mr. Thomas Minton, of the world-wide known firm of Mintons, is chairman of the committee, and we feel persuaded that the many successful potters of that district will rally round, and will not permit such a dire calamity to happen as the closing of the library even for a twelvemonth. There is too much public spirit in the Potteries to allow this.

The proposition for the erection of a new building for the Free Library in Aberdeen is under consideration. According to the arrangements of the committee, it is proposed that the design should be obtained before Whitsuntide in next year. A commencement would be made with the building in the course of the following year, but it is not anticipated that the books could be installed in their new home before the Whitsuntide of 1888. The cost of the site is expected to be met by the

sale of the house in Market-street, and a sum of £7,000 for the erection of the building will have to be borrowed, unless the citizens are prepared to come forward with donations. The interest and sinking fund would amount to £385, which is one-fourth of the whole sum that is available from the rates.

There are others to which we should like to call attention did space permit, such as the Bristol and Plymouth Libraries, under the charge of Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Wright respectively, two thoroughly experienced librarians.



CHAPTER V.

FREE LIBRARIES RECENTLY OPENED OR IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

do not purpose in this chapter enumerating all the Free Libraries in course of construction or recently opened. A very convenient building is now in course of construction at Wimbledon, and of this I give an engraving.

The design was selected in public competition in July last, about forty sets being submitted. The plan is very simple, the point striven at being that the librarian or his assistant should be able to thoroughly oversee the whole library without much walking about. Then, as the newspapers, &c., have most readers, they are placed near the door, with the tables for those using the reference library situated in the more retired parts of the building. The

librarian's rooms are over the front entrance, and have a private communication to both street and office. Tenders have been submitted, that of Mr. Johnson, of Wimbledon, being the lowest, £2,165, including lighting and heating, but not the bookcases. The architects are Messrs. Potts, Sulman, & Hennings, of London.

The new Free Library buildings at present in course of erection in Belfast, occupy a site in the centre of the town in Royal Avenue, which is a new thoroughfare made by the Corporation under parliamentary powers, through what was one of the poorest and most unsanitary districts in the town, but which now boasts the finest buildings in Belfast, including a new General Post Office, Reform Club, Junior Liberal Club, Water Commissioners' Offices, Royal Avenue Hotel, and numerous warehouses and shops.

The sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the appropriation of the site by the Council for a library was obtained, and in order to keep within their powers, the Council decided to lay out only £16,000 or £17,000 on the buildings, and about £3,000 on the furnishing. Designs were obtained by open competition, prizes of £100, £50, and £25 respectively being given for the first three in order of merit. Mr. W. H. Lynn, of Belfast, obtained the first, Messrs. Maxwell & Tuke, of Manchester, the second, and Mr. John Johnston, of London, the third; while Messrs. H. & J. Martin, of Belfast, secured the contract.

The foundation stone was laid by His Excellency Earl Spencer, the then Lord Lieutenant, on June 19th, 1884.

The original sketch of the building was hung in the 1884 Royal Academy Exhibition. The whole of the ground-floor is devoted to the libraries and reading-rooms, with the necessary offices, no space being wasted

BELFAST FREE LIBRARY.

in useless passages and corridors. The reading-room measures 52 feet by 36 feet: on the right a large hall and staircase leading to extensive picture galleries—a feature in addition to the libraries to be provided, and

it is located and kept distinct on first floor. On the right of reading-room is the lending library, 37 feet 3 inches by 29 feet 6 inches; ladies' reading-room, 28 feet by 25 feet; and committee-room, the latter looking out on front. On the left is the general library, 50 feet by 34 feet 3 inches; and adjoining, looking out on front, the select library and librarian's room. The sketch shows the front elevation.

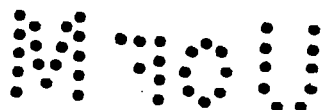
The centre room is open to the roof, and has galleries round all its sides, and is covered with a glazed, semi-circular iron hipped roof, 58 feet from floor in centre; the rooms at sides are 20 feet 6 inches high, divided from central hall by glazed screens, and extending to the streets bounding sides of site, and a thorough view is obtained from Kent Street to Little Donegal Street.

The first floor contains two large picture galleries, 62 feet 6 inches by 29 feet, and 50 feet by 33 feet 6 inches. The galleries are 23 feet in height to soffit of ceiling, and are added to by the large lantern lights provided. No windows are placed in these walls. The picture galleries have galleries of communication at ends, so that a complete circuit can be made.

The building is designed for carrying out in stone, the construction, as far as possible, being of a fire-resisting character.

Newcastle-on-Tyne was late in adopting the Act, but has made up for this dilatoriness by erecting one of the finest Free Libraries in the three kingdoms, and of which we show an engraving.

A Public Hall, Free Library, and Baths are to be erected at Newcastle-under-Lyme from the joint plans



of Messrs. W. Sugden & Son, of Leek, and of Mr. J. Blood and Messrs. Chapman & Snape, of Newcastle.

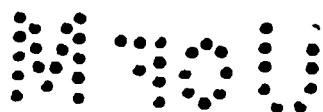
The new building intended for the Oldham Free Library was formally opened on August 6th, 1885. The municipal authorities went in procession to the building, where the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Radcliffe) formally declared the Library and Grounds to be open. A banquet took place in the evening, at which speeches were made by the Mayor, Mr. J. T. Hibbert, M.P., Dr. Yates, and others, and was followed by a ball.

The Tunstall (Potteries) Free Library was opened
October 29th, 1885.

The Chief Bailiff, John Nash Peake, Esq., J.P., in opening the proceedings on that day, said, after a few introductory remarks: I propose to give you a short history of the movement which has led up to this library and news-room being instituted. On August 13th, 1885, a requisition was sent to me as Chief Bailiff to call a public meeting of the inhabitants to consider certain proceedings. At that meeting it was proposed, seconded, and carried that the Public Libraries Act, 1855, and that the Amended Act of 1871 should be adopted. It was also proposed that the Local Board of Health be requested not to put the Act in force until it could be done without increasing the present rate, and that when the old Town Hall was available, it should be used as temporary premises for the Free Library, and that the Local Board be requested to permit its use for the purpose. It was found possible to take the 1d. rate out of the present rate without increasing it, and on October 14th, 1885—fourteen

days since—a meeting of the Local Board decided that permission should be given to use the present Town Hall as temporary premises for the Free Library. So you see that it is only two months since the matter was brought prominently before this town, and only fourteen days since they took this building in hand. Those who knew this building before will hardly recognize it now. It has certainly been very materially altered and improved, and as a temporary home for the Free Library, we have not ill-managed to arrange it. Outside, of course, it is a gruesome structure; indeed there is no defence to be made for the appearance of the outside of it. However, if the people of this town take advantage of the institution, I have no doubt that in days not very far distant we will be able to organize the outside so as to make it a little more tasty-looking than it is now. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Wood, the architect, for the manner in which he has completed his work.

Lord Wrottesley then proceeded to declare the Free Library open. In doing so, he said he could assure them that it was a matter of satisfaction to him that he had been able to respond to the invitation given him to come there that day, and take the part allotted to him in declaring that institution open. He thought there were few towns now, who claimed any amount of progress, that did not contain that educational advantage of a Free Libraries' Act. He hoped that as time went on—and everything had a beginning—it would grow into that development which they had seen in many large towns, and that these Free Libraries might become the



engine of education. If their want was felt before the national education was undertaken by the Government, how much greater was the want felt now, when education was within the reach of everybody, and everybody could avail themselves of it. It might be the case in times of depression of trade, and unfortunately they knew that they were subject to these times of depression, and when employment was uncertain, that those who had uncertain employment might have a resource to go to, and take advantage of the books that they would have an opportunity of studying. It might afford them some relief from the care of uncertain work. He was quite sure they had done wisely in availing themselves of the Free Libraries' Act, and they had also done wisely in availing themselves of the present building, hitherto used as a Town Hall, and in converting it for the purposes it was now intended for. He thought the mere fact of the architecture outside was a little matter. It was a structure they had been acquainted with; it occupied a place of central situation, and both inside and outside it was well adapted for the present purpose, until it grew into something more substantial. It was some years ago since Lord Carlisle, in addressing a meeting at a mechanics' institute in the north of England—and he was well qualified to speak upon the advantages to be derived from intellectual cultivation—said, "It was eminently their duty, as it was no less their interest, to take every means to surround themselves with a refined, orderly, intellectual, and an educated population. It would be returned them in a thousand ways. The particular studies might

not have any direct connection with their daily work, yet in promoting good in others, they were sure in the end to promote their own good." He wished he could speak to a large assembly with half the weight of Lord Carlisle. He felt as time went on that there would be many who would come within those walls, and who would be able to go away and say with one of the older poets,

I never spent more sweet and happy hours,
Than in the employment of my books.

He had pleasure in declaring the institution open, and he hoped the anticipations of those who had interested themselves in the work would be realized.

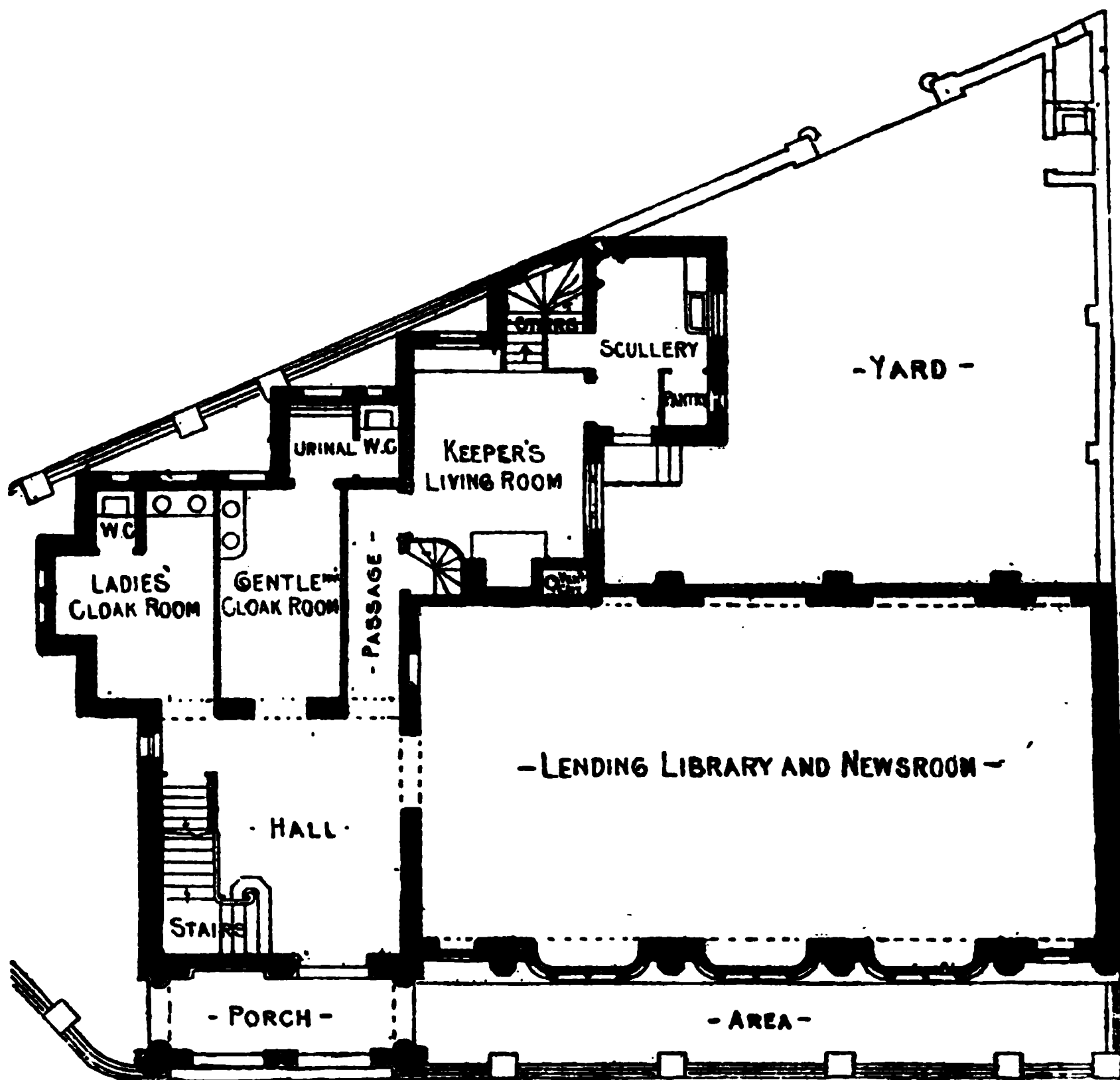
The Leyland Free Library and Museum at Hindley, now being built, is intended to form part of the improvement of Hindley, near Wigan, now being carried out from the fund left by the late Mr. Leyland for that purpose.

It contains, on the ground floor, the lending library and news-room, 51 feet by 25 feet 6 inches, with cloak-rooms and lavatories adjoining; and a stone staircase which leads to the committee-room on the first floor, 23 feet by 16 feet, with oriel window at the end; and the reference library and museum, of similar dimensions to the library below.

The basement will be utilized as a working-man's club, with billiard and smoke rooms. At the rear is placed the keeper's house, with living room, scullery, and two bedrooms, and heating chamber, coal-cellar, &c., below.

The building will be of red pressed bricks and Par-

bold stone, with green Welsh slates covering the roofs. The bays and windows in the library and staircase



HINDLEY FREE LIBRARY—PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR.

have stone mullions and transoms, with lead-light glazing.

The work is being executed by Mr. Preston, of Wigan, from the plans and under the direction of Messrs. Thomas Worthington, F.R.I.B.A., and John G. Elgood, A.R.I.B.A., architects, of Manchester.

The sketch of the building, and also that of the Wimbledon Library, are reproduced from the *Builder*.

A building is in course of erection at Bootle, near Liverpool, and there are others which could be named.

Widnes presents the most recent attempt for the adoption of the Act up to the time of my book going to press, and as it will be interesting to many to have before them a full report of what took place, I think it advisable to reprint, from the *Widnes News*, the account as given in that paper.

DISTRICT OF WIDNES.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS, 1855 TO
1885 INCLUSIVE.

Widnes, 11th December, 1885.

To F. H. Gossage, Esq., J.P.,

Chairman of the Widnes Local Board.

Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned ratepayers, respectfully ask you to call a Public Meeting of Ratepayers of the Township of Widnes to take into consideration the following subjects, or either of them, and to pass such resolution or resolutions thereon as may be considered advisable—

1st—Whether it is desirable to at once proceed with the erection of the Town Hall portion of the Public Offices.

2nd—Whether a Free Library and Public Reading Room should be provided under the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Eustace Carey, Frank Gaskell, F. H. Pankhurst, Samuel Sadler, Joseph Robinson, James Chapman, J. McN. O'Keeffe, Thos. John Peters, Richard Mercer, John Lea, Alfred Machin, Alfred Edwards, John Farrant, Edwin Warham, W. Wood, G. Maddison, William Sadler, J. E. Johnson, Daniel Gill, Ellwood, Smith, and Co., J. Morrison, William Jones, Thomas Sadler, Francis Heyes.

IN accordance with the above requisition, I hereby call a **PUBLIC MEETING** of the ratepayers for the District of Widnes, to be held in the Volunteer Hall, Widnes, on **TUESDAY**, the 29th day of December, 1885, at half-past Seven o'clock in the evening.

F. H. GOSSAGE,
Chairman Widnes Local Board.

Note.—Only persons assessed to and paying the General District Rate for the township of Widnes have a right to be present and vote at the above meeting.

The town's meeting was held on December 29th, 1885. "A public meeting of the ratepayers of Widnes was held in the Drill Hall on Tuesday evening, to take into consideration (1) whether a Free Library and Public Reading-room should be provided under the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts ; and (2) whether it is desirable to at once proceed with the erection of the town hall portion of the public offices. There was only a thin attendance. Mr. F. H. Gossage (chairman of the Local Board) presided.

Mr. Gossage, after remarking that he took the position he then occupied by virtue of his office as chairman of the Local Board, said that what they had to consider, first of all, was whether it was desirable in Widnes to adopt the Public Libraries Act. He did not know that he could explain to them very much about that, because all of them would be perfectly acquainted with the matter. The principal point was that the Widnes Local Board could not go further than the expenditure of a penny in the pound for the purposes of the Libraries

Act. He simply had to take the chair that night because he had to decide as to how the voting went, and he should ask them to excuse him speaking upon the points at all. With regard to the other subject, referring to the completion of the town hall portion of the public offices, that meeting had nothing to do except as giving an expression of feeling on the part of the public of Widnes. He called upon Mr. T. Snape, who had come kindly forward, to move a resolution.

“Mr. Snape, who was well received, said the resolution which had been put into his hands read as follows:— ‘That the Public Libraries Acts, 1855 to 1885 inclusive, shall be and are hereby adopted by the Local Board for the district of Widnes, being the local authority in and for the said district.’ It was not his expectation, or intention, when he came to that meeting to take such a prominent part as he found himself doing. He had supposed that some of those more immediately interested in promoting that meeting would have moved that resolution; hence he was a little astonished to find himself in that position. He came there to hear what might be said upon the question they were come to consider, although for himself he did entertain a strong opinion in favour of the adoption of the Free Libraries Act. From his youth upwards he had had opportunities of watching the effect of the establishment of Free Libraries. Personally he had derived such great advantage from Free Libraries that on that ground alone he should feel strongly in favour of extending the same privileges to all those who reside in this town. He did not know

whether many of them had had an opportunity of visiting the splendid library in Liverpool; he meant the Reference Library, but of course there were branch lending libraries. Any student who resorted to that library must have found it of the greatest possible assistance to him. Widnes was a town which essentially depended for its prosperity and development upon the growth of knowledge and the advantages for the attainment of knowledge which were held out to the ratepayers and residents. In considering this question they should look at it not immediately from a pounds, shillings, and pence point of view, but from a future pounds, shillings, and pence point of view; for if they wished to see the town grow and prosper it became essential that the residents should have every possible opportunity of extending their knowledge. Literature, both scientific, historic, and poetical, should be readily available. They knew how difficult it was even to those who had extensive libraries of their own to get upon their own shelves all the books they would like; and it became essential for them to resort to some of the public libraries before entering upon branches of study which the books upon their own shelves did not cover. It was much more so for many of their young people, who had not the same opportunities. They might by these means give the young people the same opportunities. Although they were passing through a season of great depression, and none of them wished to see their rates increasing in amount, he took it, from that point of view, that this might be an economical step to take. If they succeeded in pre-

venting the adoption of more vicious things, and in giving recreation and amusement, and opportunities for intellectual advancement to their population, they would in that way, assist in diminishing the rates. They would also assist in making the town more attractive as a place of residence. If they wanted to have a large population in the town, they should see that there was nothing in association with the town that would make it an unwelcome place to residents. At best there would always be some detractors, either accidental or otherwise, in Widnes, and they ought not to lessen its attractions, but increase them, and strive to make them stronger and brighter than they were in other and more favoured places. He was in Northwich the other night, and walking along the main street he was struck by the appearance of a bright new building. He crossed over to look at it, and found that it was a Free Library which had been built there by the liberality of their former townsman—Mr. J. T. Brunner. He thought he would step into it, and on doing so he was very pleased with the comfortable provision made for the students who wished to refer to books which were not allowed to be taken away, and also with the provision made for the lending of books to those who were permitted to take them to their homes. It seemed to be a hopeful sign that he might look forward to the establishment of a similar institution in Widnes. He (the speaker) was not in favour of a great expenditure in connection with the institution. He thought it possible to devise means to carry out that resolution without going to any great expense. Any expensive or costly scheme they might

have in view might be postponed to a somewhat more favourable period. He had a strong opinion of his own on the matter, and he trusted that there would not be a hand held up against the adoption of this resolution. He knew the expense would be comparatively slight, and it would be a portion of the rates that would be more cheerfully paid than any other, because they had the assurance that it would promote the intellectual growth of the population, and at the same time provide amusement and recreation which otherwise a large portion of their fellow townsmen would not be able to obtain.

“Dr. O’Keeffe, in seconding the resolution, after paying a compliment to the chairman, of whom he said that he and his family were deserving of nothing but gratitude from the inhabitants of Widnes, said he was certain that there was nothing that would be more conducive to the moral elevation of the people who resided in Widnes than having such an institution as a Free Library. There were no facilities whatever for people who live in Widnes now educating themselves after they have left the elementary schools. It was after leaving the elementary schools that working-men and those who aspired to higher positions in society, had to educate themselves. At present they had not the facilities of educating themselves such as a Free Library would afford. The result was they had a great amount of intellectual power lying dormant, and unless that power were developed it would neither be of benefit to themselves nor to the country in which they lived. Whereas, on the other hand—as they could easily see by the science and art lectures which were given here

during a certain portion of the year, and by the distribution of prizes, and the number of those who took an interest in coming to witness those interesting occasions—every young man who got a prize was not only proud of it himself, but all his relations and friends were proud that he had succeeded in educating himself after leaving the elementary school. If they had a Free Library it would be free of access to every person who liked to take advantage of such an excellent institution. They would have, as Mr. Snape had said, probably in a little time a splendid library of reference. He (Dr. O’Keeffe) had been making inquiries lately where libraries of this kind were in use, such as St. Helens—and he need not go further—where a library was in force; and had been for many years. He had made inquiries, and found that the rate for keeping up that library was simply infinitesimal—only a farthing in the pound—even to pay a librarian something like £100 a year, assistant librarians, and for cleaning, lighting, and warming. It was something under £200 a year. (“Question.”) He was not making a statement that he feared for a moment could be contradicted. He had it from one of the officials at the town hall. If a farthing in the pound would support a library in St. Helens, he thought something similar would do in Widnes. It was not that alone. If the affair were conducted in a careful and economical manner, he was sure that it would not add anything at all to the rates. He must give credit to the gentlemen who had presided over the financial department of the Local Board, and who had had the management to a great extent of the rates of Widnes, as well as to

the chairman of the Finance Committee, both the present one and one of his predecessors. They had carried out and spent the rates of the people of Widnes in a manner that was highly creditable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The rates, which were 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. some years ago, had remained stationary the last three or four years at 2s. in the pound. This was a state of things for which the Finance Committee and the gentlemen who had the management of the funds in Widnes deserved the highest amount of credit. The benefits that would accrue to the inhabitants of Widnes from a Free Library would be so paramount to any little expense—if possibly any expense could exist—that they would not take the latter into consideration. Then it might increase the reputation of the town to such an extent as to elevate it in the minds of those who had had a poor idea of it previously, and might induce people to estimate it at its proper value, and to cease to say the evil things of it that had been said in former years, and even up to the present day. Another great benefit that would accrue to Widnes from the establishment of a Free Library would be the elevation of its moral character. There was no place of entertainment, no place of recreation whatever, at present where people could resort, except the public-house—a very excellent institution in its way, and one that was required. If they had a Free Library and reading-room, many young men, and probably many young women, of this town would prefer to spend their leisure time in improving their minds, in reading works of high-class

literature, and in studying, as they did in Liverpool, for the degrees of Oxford and Cambridge, which universities had afforded so many facilities to the people lately. Unfortunately they had not a single person in Widnes, either lady or gentleman, who had gone in for either the Oxford or Cambridge degrees. That was a consideration that ought to weigh with any gentlemen who were at all inclined to oppose the establishment of an institution like a Free Library. It was a great consideration indeed, and he hoped they would think seriously before they should any of them put their vote on a question that was of such importance, not only to people of the present day, but to the rising generation as well. He, for one, having lived in Widnes for years, seeing to a great extent, he would not say the depravity of the place—fortunately it was greatly improved, but at all events it used to be to a great extent depraved—thought in consequence of the excellent way in which the finances of the town had been managed, and that it was likely to cost nothing at all in the pound, it would be well for the rate-payers and the gentlemen then present to vote for the proposition, which he had very great pleasure in seconding.

“The Chairman here read a letter from Mr. H. Wade Deacon, of Messrs. Gaskell, Deacon, & Co., large chemical manufacturers, in which he stated, ‘I regret I shall be unable to attend the public meeting to-night, as I should have been in favour of providing a Free Library and reading-room. It seems to me that the expense need not be large, and I am sure that the benefit to the town would be great.’

“The Chairman then invited anybody who wished to speak against the resolution to step on the platform, but for a time no one offered to do so. (A Voice: ‘I think they are all Quakers.’)

“Mr. Richard Webster ultimately stepped forward, and said he should like to ask a question. Asked to ascend the platform, he declined to do so. (A Voice: “Go on the platform and show your figure.”) Mr. Webster asked where the library was to be held, and whether it was not the thin end of the wedge to spending another £10,000. They had already one or two dead horses in the town. There was the market, and then £20,000 had been spent on a sewer which was of no use for want of extension. He, himself, thought that if the Local Board would go in for an extension of the sewerage, and try to save the lives of the inhabitants of the town, instead of establishing a library, it would be better. If they went in for spending another £10,000 for a library, that, he thought, would be another dead horse. They had so many things that wanted pushing forward by the Board, that he did not think they were warranted in spending so much of the ratepayers’ money. If the Board were not intending to spend another £10,000, there was no man in the town but would like to see a place for a library; but if it was to cost so much money they ought to take the matter into deep consideration before the money was spent.

“Mr. Gould: I should like to know what expense we are going to?

“The Chairman: I said, in the first instance, that we cannot go beyond a penny in the pound.

“Mr. Gould: If you look at it, it is only a very little sum once a year. And what do you get for it? A fine hall, and also a library in which to educate your families as well.

“Mr. Benjamin Brown, who was warmly cheered on ascending the platform, said he did not think he should be wrongly judged, or that an opinion would be entertained that he was opposed to any institution which would improve the morality of the town, or which would tend to elevate its character. He understood, to begin with, that the adoption of the Libraries Act had no connection with the town hall question.

“The Chairman: It is absolutely distinct. This meeting has nothing to do, has no power to do anything with regard to the expenditure of a further £10,000 upon the town hall. This meeting is simply here to express its opinion as to whether the Free Libraries Act shall be adopted or not; and, in regard to the second resolution, as to whether the town hall shall be erected to the full extent that we have designs put in for.

“Mr. Brown said he thought he expressed the opinion of a good many, when he said that they did not like to put themselves in the position of opposing the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in Widnes. At the same time, he did very firmly protest against any increase, any permanent increase, in the rates of the township. His reason for that assertion was, that considering the present state of the staple trade of the town and its prospects, they were not justified in increasing the permanent burdens of the place. As he

understood now that the adoption of the Free Libraries Act did not at all commit the meeting to the further extension of the town hall, he should not oppose the adoption of the Free Libraries Act—but with reference to any further expenditure of money in the direction indicated, he should oppose it most decidedly.

“ Mr. Martin Taylor said that as far as he was able to gather, the feeling of the meeting was this ; that if they sanctioned the Public Libraries Act in the first resolution, they might find themselves committed to the higher expenditure on the town hall. He did not know whether that was so or not, but he should like those present to place confidence in the Local Board. He should not like to go away from that meeting—as he believed it was the second meeting already held for the purpose—without the resolution being adopted. He thought they were depriving the town of a very great instrument for educating the people. The young men of the town had little beside the public-house to go to when they came to that age when they could not always be expected to be sitting round the fire. He got upon the platform to appeal to them not to be carried away, by the matter of expenditure, from voting for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, and to ask them to adopt a vote of confidence in the Local Board, as far as the town hall was concerned. Another thing they might possibly do : they might show a willingness on the part of the town that the town should be further educated ; and there was no telling but that some gentleman or gentlemen in the neighbourhood would provide them with a library. At the same time by showing their

willingness to subscribe to the library, they might throw the onus upon those rich gentlemen, who had made their wealth in the town, of finding a building, if necessary.

“Mr. Poulson said he should like to ask a question with regard to the increase of a penny in the pound in the rates. Did that penny in the pound, allowed by the Act, cover the first expenditure in the provision of rooms, furniture, and so forth, or did it simply cover the maintenance after the necessary premises had been provided out of the rates?”

The Chairman: A penny in the pound is to cover both the original expenditure and maintenance. As Dr. O’Keeffe very properly pointed out, at St. Helens it is only a rate of a farthing in the pound.

Mr. Snape wished to make his position clear. As to the second part of the business submitted for the opinion of the meeting, they had no power to give any effective decision to their consideration; but he was thoroughly with Mr. Brown and others who had spoken, that ways and means ought to be devised by the Local Board without resorting to the great expense that had been suggested in the second part of the business. He did hope some day to see a town hall, but he was not quite sure that this was the right time to build it. With reference to the question asked last, he found that at Northwich, owing to some delay in building the library, a rate had been made two or three times before the library opened, so that they had the accumulation of one or two rates to enable them to stock the library.

He did not think that would be necessary in Widnes.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting, when only two voted against it, the result being received with applause.

On January 15th, 1886, the new Free Library and Reading-room which has been erected in Loughborough, under the Free Libraries Act, was publicly opened before a large gathering of local ladies and gentlemen and ratepayers of the town. Nearly £1,200 have been spent in the work, and the whole has been contributed by voluntary subscriptions, the movement, since its inception, twelve months ago, having been warmly taken up by the working classes generally. To Mr. A. A. Bumpus belongs the credit of having initiated the movement in a most substantial manner. He was joined by Mr. Hy. Deane and Mr. George Hodson, and the three gentlemen named directed their efforts towards popularizing the undertaking. This they had no difficulty in doing, for, with the hearty co-operation of large employers of labour, financial as well as moral considerations were set at rest, and obstacles surmounted. The town unanimously adopted the Free Libraries Act, and the Local Board dedicated a site for the building, which is situate adjoining the town offices, on the Ashby-road, and extends down Green Close-lane a distance of about seventy feet. It is in the Tudor style of architecture. The principal entrance is in Green Close-lane, the entrance hall being twenty-six feet by nine feet. On the left is the entrance to the lending library, about thirty-four feet by twenty-six feet in its maximum

dimensions and sixteen feet high. The bookshelves, of pitch pine, occupy at present two sides of the room, and the shelves even now are so filled as to present a very creditable appearance, and show unmistakably that the book committee have fairly grappled with the task before them. The arrangements for the lending library department appear to have been carefully thought out. Two large glazed screens, with spring doors, are provided, one for entrance and the other for exit of the borrowers, whilst the counter space and fittings are suitably arranged for quickly dealing with the wants of the borrowers. The reading-room is on the right of the entrance hall, forty-five feet long by twenty-six feet wide, with a height to the wall plate of sixteen feet, and twenty-eight feet to the boarded ceiling, and contains 28,000 cubic feet of air space. It is lighted by four large windows on the Green Close-lane side, and with an ornamental lantern skylight extending one-half the length of the roof. The ceiling is all of wrought woodwork, stained and varnished, and the walls are tinted a warm buff, which harmonizes well with the woodwork. Newspaper stands, upon which the newspapers are opened out and secured from removal, will be placed in various positions in the room, and the lower portion has a continuous stand across the room. For the convenience of readers of books and periodicals, tables are provided, and the arrangements generally seem to be thoroughly conducive to the comfort of the public, whilst the system of the glazed screen entrances permits the whole of the premises to be at once under the eye and control of the librarian.

The Chairman first gave a short but succinct history of the movement which led to the establishment of the library, and in doing so recognized the kindness of Mr. A. A. Bumpus, the ready help which all classes gave to the movement, and the cordial sympathy which the late Archdeacon Fearon manifested in it. The result of the appeal for subscriptions, he said, was that the handsome sum of £1,183 was subscribed, and the committee felt that they were justified in asking the town to adopt the Free Libraries Act. A public meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, when the Act was enthusiastically and unanimously adopted. A properly constituted committee was formed, and the Local Board dedicated a site of land for the purposes of the building. His pleasure would have been complete if the committee could have handed over the building to the town without any expenses upon it; but there was a debt remaining of about £150, which included every liability that had been incurred up to the present time. Having spoken upon the relative values of the reading-room and library, he called on Lady John Manners to open the building.

Lady John Manners, who was very cordially received, said she earnestly trusted that the building might be a great blessing to the town. Indeed, they had little doubt it would be so, and she thought each person who had contributed, either by giving time or money, to attain that delightful result must feel that they had conferred a lasting benefit upon the town. She need hardly say that she was there that night with feelings of the greatest delight. It had always been her wish that every town

of England should possess a Free Library. But she was afraid her most sanguine expectation had not pictured to her so charming a building as that which the committee had given them the privilege of seeing that night. It appeared to her to be one of the best fitted buildings for such a purpose as she had ever seen. Its lofty proportions, its cheerful aspect, and the excellent arrangements which had been made to hand out the books seemed to approach very near perfection. They knew what a great interest the Queen took in Free Libraries, and to-morrow she should communicate to Her Majesty the pleasure and happiness she had that night. It was greatly owing to Her Majesty's encouragement that she was induced to do the little she had done towards promoting the cause of Free Libraries and recreation rooms for the people. Her Majesty had set the example ; in every way she possibly could she had encouraged the movement. But she (Lady John) had done but little except to gather up the opinions and experience of those who were more fitted to speak with authority upon the subject of the arrangement and organization of Free Libraries. But she might say it was extremely grateful to her that scarcely a week passed that she did not receive communications from some parts of England respecting the establishment of such buildings. Where they had been established she was told the results almost exceeded the expectations in many instances. Examples of the kind were so numerous that she must forbear to quote them for fear of detaining the audience. Suffice it to say that where these libraries were established it was quite extra-

ordinary to perceive how much the peace and prosperity of those towns in which they existed increased. Since Free Libraries were started in every barracks, the condition of our soldiers was greatly improved. It was shown that they attended the reading-rooms nightly, and appeared to enjoy the greatest possible pleasure in so doing. Next to founding a Free Library, the best thing to do was to make the best use of it. She was extremely glad to hear that the daily papers were to be found in the reading-room, and she was also pleased to hear that numerous periodicals would be there also. No doubt the study of papers and periodicals was most interesting. She considered that every educated person ought to endeavour to read all that was going on up to the present time. There was scarcely a subject of any interest on which they could obtain information that was not to be found in the newspaper or periodical. It might be said she had time to do so, and it was true to a certain extent; but she had been reading a paper by Lord Iddesleigh on the uses and disadvantages of desultory reading. Lord Iddesleigh said it was necessary for them to read what was best in the history of the present day. He said if they read intelligently what appeared in the newspapers they would be able to obtain books which would throw additional light upon the subjects. He did not discourage desultory reading, but he urged that they should use all their endeavours to go through a course of more solid reading. She could not pretend to dictate to men what they should read, because individual preferences differed. Still, there were certain fundamental principles that they

ought to observe. They ought to have a good knowledge of history, and acquaint themselves with the literature of past generations, so as the better to understand the references and quotations which occurred in newspapers and periodicals. There was no doubt that one of the greatest pleasures for any man or woman was a taste for reading. She believed that in America the taste for reading was much more developed than in England. She believed there was scarcely a village in America—so she was informed—where there was not a small library of some sort, even if it were in a log hut. All over Germany and France there were Free Libraries, which were frequented by all the intelligent inhabitants of every class. She was extremely thankful that Englishmen now appeared to be determined not to be behind America or any continental country. She had received so many communications upon the subject of Free Libraries, that she was aware many persons in different ranks of life were earnestly devoting themselves to spreading abroad the idea of recreation rooms and such institutions, so that were she to abandon the work, and cease to take an active interest in it, it would be taken up all over the country by thousands of persons who were more capable of giving advice on the subject. It was a most gratifying reflection, because they must remember that their capacity for work was limited, and that at any time it might be necessary for them to abandon their favourite schemes. But she believed their mutual work was good and useful, notwithstanding their different opinions upon other subjects. It was a well understood thing that in promoting the

prosperity of material things, public Free Libraries did more than anything else to advance the cause of temperance and thrift. To her it was always a gratifying fact in connection with the establishment of Free Libraries, that so very large a sum was contributed by employers and workmen themselves. In this case no less a sum than £182 had been contributed by them towards the funds, and she hoped their earnestness and devotion would become known throughout the breadth of the land, as an example which working men in other towns might follow. She had always said, "Let working men themselves say we will be educated, we will have reading-rooms, and raise ourselves to the level of intelligent persons," and then they would hear much less of poverty and distress. It was not money which made them happy, although a certain amount was desirable, but it was the capacity to use it well; and, what was even more necessary, to make good use of their time. They must be quite sure that those who frequented the library adopted that principle because in the library there were books of all kinds. She had been told by a hardworking man that it was absolutely necessary from time to time to read works of fiction. Some very much preferred biography, but other minds found it essential to unbend. The bow could not be kept on the stretch night and day, and therefore they resorted to works of fiction. But she thought the women ought to have a share of the advantages of the institution, and she thanked the committee for having considered the wives at home, who would find pleasure, after their hard day's work, in perusing the pages of an interesting book.

Again her ladyship thanked the committee for having permitted her to take part in the proceedings, and concluded by saying it was a particular pleasure for her to see so many friends around her, so many representatives of different shades of thought, and she felt quite certain that they would join with her in thanking the committee most heartily for their handsome present to the town.

Mr. J. E. Johnson-Ferguson, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Deane for presiding over the meeting, said he came there also to express his thanks to Lady John Manners for having come to open it. They all knew it would be nothing less than impertinence for him to say any words in Leicestershire in praise of her ladyship. She was so well known throughout the country as one of the most earnest advocates of Free Libraries, and as an able advocate of temperance and thrift, and of everything which conduced to what he might call the temporal comfort of working men, that they felt deeply grateful to her and to everyone who had taken an interest in the movement for what had been brought about that day. They all knew, as well as he did, the heavy drain it was on the leisure of anyone who devoted themselves to work of that sort, and especially a lady; and they could not but recognize the efforts of those who so willingly gave up their time to the successful carrying on of a work of that kind. As he had said, he had also come there to congratulate them on the opening of a Free Library, which was what he for years had been urging, and urging, he was sorry

to say, unsuccessfully on his neighbours in a town near to where he lived in Lancashire. He was sorry to say that they had not shown, even though a larger town than Loughborough, so great a public spirit as the Loughborough people had shown in establishing a library for themselves. During the last forty or fifty years great changes had come over the country, and the hours of labour for everyone, working men as well as working women, had been greatly diminished, and their wages had greatly increased. Education had spread throughout the country, and their condition altogether was very different from what that of their fathers' was. But that was all the more reason why they should not simply rest and be thankful. Their working hours being diminished, they had more surplus time. They were able to read, and to enjoy what they read, and that gave them a further reason why they should now use wisely the larger amount of spare time which they possessed, and that they should use it to carry their education further; to place themselves above the position, from an educational point of view, of the working men of other countries. They had heard a good deal during the last few years of bad trade, and yet, as Mr. Goschen said some months ago, when addressing the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the actual income of the country was greater now, or rather last year, than it ever was before, and that a penny on the income tax would realize more than it ever did; and he clearly showed that while a diminution had taken place in the income of those whom they might call the wealthy classes, there had been a material

increase in the small incomes throughout the country, and that might legitimately show there ought to be an increased desire amongst them for higher mental culture than they ever had enjoyed up to the present. Mr. Hodson, in his remarks, spoke of the danger of foreign competition. His (the speaker's) belief was that the only country at the present from which manufacturers, and he spoke himself as a manufacturer, had any great danger to fear was Germany, and the reason was because the people of Germany were so much higher cultivated. They were cultivated scientifically, artistically, literally, and generally, and if they wished to hold their own as the greatest producing nation of the world, they could only meet the competition of the Germans by raising themselves in every point at least on a level with, and he hoped to a higher level than, the Germans of the present time. If they would do that, if they were determined that they would not simply rest satisfied with their employment by the observance of the rule of thumb which used to prevail in days gone by, but were determined to know, as far as it was possible for them to know, the scientific reasons of everything they did; by that means, he said, if they brought science to bear on everything they undertook, and improved the methods of doing it, they would have very little to fear, and would be able to hold their own as the best manufacturers of the world. He then said he did not like institutions of that kind to be handed over to towns with any debt upon them, and if the other gentlemen would join him in reducing the debt which now existed on

the building, he would most willingly contribute a further £20.

At a meeting held on January 16, 1886, at the Tabernacle Schools, the desirability of providing a Free Library for Oldbury was discussed. It was stated that the leading manufacturers in the district were willing to co-operate in the movement. It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the time had arrived when steps should be taken to provide both a Free Library and baths, and it was resolved that those present should form a committee to initiate the scheme. Several of the gentlemen present offered to contribute liberal donations towards the cost of the necessary buildings. Mr. H. Herbert, who was appointed secretary *pro tem.*, was instructed to convene another meeting at an early date for the further consideration of the subject, and to invite all the clergymen, ministers, leading manufacturers, and residents of the town to attend. The need for such institutions has long been felt in Oldbury, and the inhabitants are gratified to learn that the first step towards the accomplishment of this desirable object has been taken.





CHAPTER VI.

USES OF FREE LIBRARIES.

uses of Free Libraries are real and manifold. Let anyone not accustomed to these institutions go to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, and other large towns, and see for himself what they mean to the inhabitants in those towns. It is not simply that the ratepayers have the privilege of borrowing books, and largely avail themselves of it, but if they wish for information on any subject, the first step they take is to go to the reference department of the Free Library, and there they can obtain books on any subject. There is an absolute quiet, so that these departments become public studies, where the book-worm may revel to his heart's content, where the Sunday-school teacher, the literary man, the minister of the Gospel, the essay writer, the inventor, and the schoolboy, and every

other class of society, can have, without charge, the use of any reasonable number of books.

If it is evening, at all the places named the reading-room will, in all probability, be full of working men and youths well advanced in their teens diligently perusing the papers, magazines, or some of the volumes of the illustrated papers.

Centres of light are these libraries, if not sweetness, and the sweetness lies in the appreciative light in which they are held. Free Libraries not only feed, but they create a taste for reading, and unquestionably, whatever does this is of benefit to the community, and aids materially in the repressing and taming of the rougher and baser parts of men's nature. Writing as librarians, we know how often wives and children come for books, and make the request, "Please pick me a nice one, sir, for if I take home an interesting book, my husband (or father, as the case may be) will stop in during the evening and read it to us." The curse of officialism does not extend to by far the greater majority of librarians and assistants, for, taken as a body, it would be impossible to find a more courteous body of men among public officials, taking the country through. They are willing universally to help the readers and borrowers, and in thousands of instances they are not merely the attendants who fetch and take in the books, but are the vocal key to the catalogues, aiding with their suggestions and knowledge in the search for books on a particular subject.

When Free Libraries were first established, it was greatly feared that they would militate against the book-

selling trade, and that this worthy class of tradesmen would suffer. On the contrary, the very opposite has been the case. At the annual conference of librarians, held at Plymouth in September, 1885, the closing day of the session was marked by the reading of a paper of more than professional or technical interest, the subject discussed in it being "Free Libraries from a bookseller's point of view." It was argued, when Free Libraries were first instituted, that they would have the effect of injuring the sale of books. People, it was urged, would go to the libraries for what they wanted, instead of buying it as heretofore. And there was a certain amount of plausibility in the suggestion. Most persons, it might be supposed, would be satisfied with perusing the volumes in which they were interested, and would be happy to be relieved of the necessity of acquiring them for themselves. And to a certain extent that is the case. No doubt the establishment of Free Libraries has been of great advantage to many who formerly were obliged to expend large sums in book-buying. Nevertheless, the bookseller who addressed the librarians asserted, as the result of his experience, that Free Libraries had rather increased than decreased the trade in which he is concerned. Nor is the reason difficult to discover. Granted that there are those who are glad to read without buying, there are probably still more who are led to buy what they read, or are led, by reading, to desire to buy. A young man who "takes out" a Free Library book, finds it, perhaps, so attractive, that he becomes anxious to obtain a copy of it. He is not satisfied with reading, he wishes to possess. That,

one can well believe, very frequently happens. And then, of course, there can be no question that the anxiety to form a little library of one's own is, in a general way, fostered by the free reading which the libraries supply. A taste for books is engendered, and then comes the feeling that it would be pleasant to have some of one's own. And if Free Libraries did no more than inspire this feeling, they would have a sufficient reason for existing.

In some districts the proportionate issue to each inhabitant reaches over four books per year of the entire population of the town, and to each actual borrower, over twenty volumes per year. This fact not only justifies the existence of the libraries in those towns, but should be a very powerful argument to other districts to adopt them.

"The main *raison d'être* of Free Public Libraries," says the late Professor W. Stanley Jevons, in a paper contributed in 1881 to the *Contemporary Review*, "as indeed of public museums, art galleries, parks, halls, public clocks, and many other kinds of public works, is the enormous increase of utility which is thereby acquired for the community at a trifling cost. If a beautiful picture be hung in the dining-room of a private house, it may, perhaps, be gazed at by a few guests a score or two of times in the year. Its real utility is too often that of ministering to the selfish pride of its owner. If it be hung in the National Gallery it will be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of persons, whose glances, it need hardly be said, do not tend to wear out the canvas. The same principle applies to books in common ownership.

If a man possesses a library of a few thousand volumes, by far the greater part of them must lie for years untouched upon the shelves; he cannot possibly use more than a fraction of the whole in any one year. But a library of five or ten thousand volumes opened free to the population of a town may be used a thousand times as much. It is a striking case of what I propose to call *the principle of the multiplication of utility*, a principle which lies at the base of some of the most important processes of political economy, including the division of labour."

The town which cares for its ratepayers will establish a Free Library, and take care of it with just as much interest as they will attend to the water, drains, and gas of the town. If it is necessary for the health of the inhabitants that they have pure water, good drains, and cheap gas, surely it is the more necessary that they have healthy provision for the mind, and no efforts which have yet been provided in any part of the country so thoroughly provide this as do Free Libraries.

There are many other uses which might be named. Files of local papers are kept, the *Patent Journal*, maps, charts, and other special matters, and it is impossible to deny that these are a public convenience. Efforts have been made to get the Government to send copies of public records to Free Libraries, and we yet hope to see this an accomplished fact.

In August, 1885, a deputation, consisting of members of the Council of the Libraries Association, waited upon the Earl of Iddesleigh at his official residence, Downing-street. Amongst those present was Mr. Jackson, M.P., and several of the chief librarians of Public Libraries in

provincial towns, including Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham, and Wigan, also attended. Mr. Jackson, in introducing the deputation, said the request which they had to make was that parliamentary papers and publications of various government departments, such as the Admiralty, the Public Record Office, the Indian and Colonial Office, the Stationery Office, and the Ordnance Survey, should be presented to such of the Free Libraries in the United Kingdom as should apply for them, and should undertake to provide proper accommodation for the volumes, to keep them in good condition, and to place them at the service of the public in the same manner as the publications of the Patent Office, which were already supplied. Lord Iddesleigh, who was accompanied by Sir H. Holland, recognized the value of the libraries in question, but pointed out that when the appeal was made for a grant of books it became a question whether the Government should subsidize such institutions. He did not wish to express too discouraging an opinion upon the subject, and he was very sensible of the advantage which would be derived from the circulation of such papers, but he was afraid the expense would be considerable, and from the estimate supplied to him it appeared that the cost of supplying the 130 libraries established under the Libraries Act, would be between £5,000 and £6,000. This would be a grant by the Treasury without any vote from Parliament. He was, however, so unwilling to say anything discouraging, that he should prefer to give no further answer than that he would take the proposals into consideration, and he did not despair of being able to make

a suggestion in the direction of the libraries giving in return valuable information to the Government, which would alter the case.

Writing further on this matter, on November 13th, 1885, Lord Iddesleigh said: — “I have carefully considered the question brought before me by the deputation introduced by you in July last, as to the possibility of free grants of Government publications being made to the Public Libraries. I stated at the time the objections which I saw to such a proposal, and on further consideration I remain of the same opinion.

“But I am glad to say I have been able to make an arrangement which, by appreciably reducing the cost to Public Libraries of purchasing such publications, will, I trust, be of considerable advantage. A contract is about to be made, under which one contractor will undertake the sale of all the Government publications published by the Stationery Office; and it is to be a condition of the contract that the accredited agents of Free Public Libraries are to be allowed at least 25 per cent. discount from the prices of the publications as fixed by the Stationery Office.

“The Comptroller of the Stationery Office will be prepared to send to any Public Library which may apply for it, a catalogue which will be published in each year, of the Government publications issued in the previous year, showing the price fixed by the Stationery Office for each publication.

“The new contract will not come into force until January 1st, 1887; and until that date the arrangement cannot take effect.”

A glance at the published statistics of any of the Free Libraries of the country as to the occupations of the readers shows how widely they are used by every trade and profession. This is sufficient answer to any who say that they are only for a section of the ratepayers. To all sections alike they are accessible, and to say that the "great unwashed" alone use them is saying what would not be true, especially as on the doors and walls of some of the libraries in the manufacturing districts a notice enforcing "clean hands and faces" is conspicuous, and this is rigidly enforced by careful librarians.





CHAPTER VII.

THE EDUCATING OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT.

is is the main question of my entire effort, and considering the years of agitation which have been necessary in some towns, it is of vital necessity that the subject should be taken up only by those prepared to meet with bitter opposition, and to vigorously maintain their views. The British ratepayer is very often a tough customer. In every town he has the impression that he is over-taxed, and the least hint of any increase in that direction brings paterfamilias up in arms directly,—and there are sure to be opponents in every section of society. To make haste slowly should, therefore, be the motto of all friends of the movement.

I would place in the very front rank of influences likely to aid those in any town desirous of starting the movement that of the press. The fourth estate has become so great a factor in English life, that any public effort which leaves out in the cold, or pretends to do so, the local newspapers, is almost sure, from the very first, to be doomed to failure; and if proprietors and conductors of papers can be made friends of the cause, and be prevailed to treat the matter editorially, the efforts cannot fail to be ultimately successful.

The ball might, in the first instance, be set rolling by some prominent townsman in a letter to the local press showing the wide usefulness to all classes of Free Libraries, and the desirability of adopting the Act in that town. The writer of such a letter should give some particulars of what these institutions have done and are doing in other districts. He should go into figures, giving the rateable value of the town, and what the rate up to a penny in the pound would produce, and what could be done in the way of establishing, stocking, and maintaining a library with the gross amount. It would be advisable in such a letter to combat the idea that the rich provide books for the poor,—that the town is doing for individuals what they should do for themselves, viz., provide themselves with books.

Ignorant opponents everywhere dub them as expensive luxuries in a town. They are nothing of the kind. The argument to the effect that if a town provides water, gas, and sewers for its ratepayers, why should it not provide books, should be skilfully handled.

One letter would thus lead to others, and the subject

would be prominently ventilated on both sides. The following is a letter, which appeared in a Glasgow paper, of an opponent to the movement in the commercial capital of Scotland, for to the dishonour of that immense city be it said, that it has not yet established the Act, although several attempts have been made. This letter is so fair a specimen of its kind, that I feel constrained to give it in full. It runs as follows :—

“SIR,—I observe that the committee for promoting the adoption in Glasgow of the Public Libraries Acts has been issuing circulars and pledge forms to the rate-payers of our city. Perhaps, therefore, you will give space in your columns for some remarks on this question, which has already been pretty copiously, if not thoroughly, discussed in the local press. There is an immense amount of nonsense talked about Public Libraries. It seems to be thought that because books are a good thing, therefore they should be provided for nothing. A parallel inference would be that since bread is useful, therefore it should be given without work. Now, without precisely asserting that there may be too much of a good thing, I would vary the proverb by saying that a good thing may be had too cheap. The mere reading of a book is nothing ; there is no magical benefit to be gained by looking at certain printed characters ; and one may be quite unimproved by a voluminous course of reading, or may turn his knowledge to bad account. But the advantages of self-denial and economy are indubitable—these are a moral discipline which no one can pass through without benefit to his nature. Indeed, one might almost say that the

greatest benefit to be derived from a book is not that to be got from the reading of it, but that which the saving up to buy it confers. The man who goes through a volume of Mill or Spencer may rise from it unconvinced—unenlightened even; but if he has denied himself some shillings to purchase it, if he has given up some lower pleasure to obtain that higher one, he has undergone a self-discipline which whole libraries cannot give. And yet this training, which nature in her silent working gratuitously provides—training which our working classes of all men most require—the advocates of Free Libraries would deprive them of. To furnish them with unselected mental food which they are to devour at random, these well-intentioned but erring philanthropists would take away from them that which is the truest education—the development of the moral faculties—by the stern teaching of experience. The answer to this I know will be that under the Free Libraries Acts the working man, as a ratepayer, will pay for his reading. Even assuming, however, that he pays adequately for it, yet his payments will have all the virtue taken out of them by being made compulsory, and being dissociated from the benefit gained in exchange. But the truth is that the working man will not pay for these libraries, or will pay for them only to an inappreciable extent, and that it will be practically the rich men who are forced to supply their poorer fellow-citizens with books. To say the least of it, such a benefit to the workman will be self-destructive, for while we strive to educate him with one hand, we shall be *pro tanto* pauperizing him with the other. One great point with

the Free Library advocates is that our existing collections are inadequate. If that be so, then the explanation must be that the want of libraries is not sufficiently felt—for otherwise we should have competent collections—the adequate demand would infallibly call forth the answering supply. And all such measures as the Public Libraries Acts are simply relics of Protection—devices for compelling men to maintain a channel of supply which is supposed to be beneficial to the community, but which confessedly cannot stand alone. Besides this, I would point out that the very existence of these Acts, and of the ever-recurring clamour for their adoption, is a very considerable deterrent to private enterprise and beneficence. When one does not know the day on which all collections of private origin may be swallowed up or overshadowed by a State-protected institution, it is not likely that people will leave their money for such purposes as Mr. Stirling and Mr. Mitchell left theirs. The public at large, too, gets the habit of looking to State agency to satisfy its wants, and so private enterprise and combination are discouraged. Another argument of which much has been made is that so many towns have already adopted the Acts. But that many people seem to be taken with it, such a reason would be beneath notice. It is simply the argument with which ladies reconcile themselves to the last preposterous bonnet from Paris—neither more nor less than a plea for being in the fashion.—I am, &c., R. A.”

It will be observed that the gentleman does not sign his name in full, and if statistics were taken of

letters from opponents to the measure in all towns, by far the greater majority of them would be found to be anonymous—a very significant fact. There requires to be a hanging-day for anonymous letter writers.

Letters such as that I have indicated, and replies of the character of the specimen given, cannot fail to bring out the editor in his columns for leaders, and so the subject soon grows into a burning question for the town.

Second in influence for the movement I would place clergymen and other ministers of the Gospel, Sunday and day-school teachers, and all who have influence with, and care for, their fellow-townsmen. Surely these could easily introduce the subject in a sermon, speech, or address, and I have a deep impression that if those who seek to teach from the pulpit would leave alone agnosticism and eloquent discourses on the meaning of obscure Hebrew passages of the Bible for a Sunday now and again, and would introduce such a practical question as this, they would very often do more real good than a whole year's supply of beautiful sermons.

It is astonishing how many friends of education there are when such a movement as this is set going, and the voluntary help of all these should be at once enlisted. When the subject has been forward for a time, a provisional committee should be formed, with a man of definite qualities for light and leading as chairman. All true friends of the cause will have no jealousy against some gentleman taking a very prominent lead in the matter; but it is only one of strong individuality.

who can do this, and the others should rally round him.

Such work is, of course, all voluntary, and a good leader will take care that these voluntary workers are well organized into such sections for various districts.

A profuse distribution of handbills and circulars will materially aid.

Much help must not, at first, be expected from aldermen and town councillors, or members of local boards. The latter gentlemen know only too well that the seat of sensitiveness in their constituents is the trousers' pocket, and a prominence on his part in a movement for an extra rate might mean to him the loss of his seat in the council or board.

The opponents of the measure may be classed as follows:—

I. The better-class people, who do not see why they should be taxed for the benefit of other classes.

II. Those who say that books are so cheap nowadays that no one need be without them.

III. The enemies of education—and there are not a few of these.

IV. The burdened (?) ratepayer, who objects on principle to all rates and taxes.

V. The working classes, who very often are not particularly anxious for the adoption of Free Libraries.

VI. The folks who don't care for books, and fail to see why other people should—poor creatures, what a life to lead!

VII. Those who say that providing Free Libraries out of the rates kills private benevolence in this direction.

VIII. Shareholders in subscription libraries, who fear that the movement will depreciate the value of their shares. As a matter of fact, Free Libraries do nothing of the kind. Take Leeds, for instance. Shares were offered in the Circulating Library of that town, in 1870, at £6, and now command over £20. In movements for the establishment there has been much mistaken consideration for existing circulating libraries, and it cannot be made too widely known that wherever Free Libraries were established, so far from injuring other libraries in the town, they had always considerably benefited them.

Other classes might be named, but these will suffice. It is scarcely necessary for me to give separately the answer to these various sections.

Public meetings would naturally follow, and these meetings would help to educate public opinion, and would prepare the ratepayers for taking an intelligent side when the real question came before them.

Well planned and carefully managed public meetings would aid the matter vastly, and this would be the work of the provisional committee and as many as could be enlisted in its favour.

Speakers at these meetings would do well not to burden their audience with too many statistics; but short speeches, to the point, would do much more good.

I would especially urge the provisional committee not to prematurely push forward the town's meeting

at which the vote is taken. The cause has been lost in many towns through doing this. The ground must be well cleared before this is held, and test votes can be taken at the previous public meetings on such a question as—Those hold up hands who would *like* to see a Free Library established in this town, and who would not mind the small rate for its maintenance?

Then following vigorous discussion, and the period appearing ripe for the grand test, a requisition signed by ten ratepayers to the Mayor, requesting him to call a public meeting to decide whether the Act shall be adopted in that town. (See Appendix for this form.)

A poster announcing this town's meeting will then be issued, and so the town will experience an event of vast importance, and one not only fraught with important consequences upon its present but its generations yet unborn.

The Mayor will, of course, preside, and the Town Clerk will commence by reading the notice convening the meeting. Speeches in favour of the step, and perhaps one or two against, will be made, and then will come the formal proposition by some prominent ratepayer, see page 462, and this will be seconded, and then a show of hands decides the book fate of the town for weal or woe.

If a simple majority of those present at this town's meeting decide in favour, the vote is sufficient, and the town can forthwith levy a rate, and will eventually see its Free Library.

The opponents, if defeated, can *not* demand a poll after this, and the decision of the town's meeting is final.

In Stockport, the borough once represented by the late Richard Cobden, a young man asked a public meeting some years ago, when met to consider the advisability of establishing a Free Library in that town, to go to their children's bedside and say, "Ah, my little children, I have cursed you with the blight of ignorance with all the power that is at my disposal." The meeting, previous to the impassioned speech of the young man, was in favour of discarding the idea of a Free Library, but he turned the opinions of those present, and a resolution in favour of its establishment was carried.

Stress must be laid all through the agitation that more than one penny in the pound per year can not be levied. This is the one vital point of the entire question, and this argument cannot be driven home too firmly.

If friends of the movement have visited Free Libraries in the country, all the better, as they will from these derive inspiration.

In not a few cases the most determined opposition was offered to the adoption of the Act, and during the formation of the library the most gloomy forebodings and prognostications of failure were indulged in. After, however, the library had been in work three or four months, not one in a hundred of the opponents but what had been won over, many of them having the honesty to confess their conversion and to acknowledge that they had not the slightest idea that a Free Library was such a splendid and enjoyable institution.

The various Public Libraries' Acts, like all

other Acts of Parliament, are so verbose that one almost requires a lawyer to make it clear, and this Mr. G. F. Chambers, barrister, has done in his "Digest of the Law relating to Free Libraries and Museums."

The following is a brief epitome of the Act of 1855, and Amendment of 1877, and shows how the Public Libraries Acts are brought into operation. The Act, in full, is published in the Appendix.

In Cities and Boroughs, England and Wales:—

1.—The Mayor of any Municipal Borough shall, on the request of the Town Council, or of ten resident Ratepayers, convene a public meeting of the Burgesses to determine whether the Acts shall be adopted, and ten days' notice at least of the meeting shall be given by affixing a notice on or near the door of every Church and Chapel within the Borough, and also by advertising the same in one or more of the newspapers published or circulated within the Borough, seven days at least before the day appointed for the meeting; and if at such meeting *more than one-half* of such persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that the Acts ought to be adopted, the same shall thenceforth come into operation. The Mayor or the Chairman shall cause a minute to be made of the resolutions of the meeting, and shall sign the same; and the resolutions so signed shall be conclusive evidence that the meeting was duly convened, and the vote thereat duly taken, and that the minute contains a true account of the proceedings.

2.—The expenses incurred in calling the meeting, whether the Acts be adopted or not, and the expenses

of carrying the Acts into execution in any Municipal Borough, may be paid out of the Borough Rate, or out of a rate made like a Borough Rate, but the amount so paid in such Borough in any one year shall not exceed 1d. in the pound upon the annual value of the property in such Borough rateable to a Borough Rate.

3.—If any meeting called to consider the adoption of the Acts negatives a proposal to that effect, no other meeting for the same purpose is to be held for at least one year.

4.—By the Public Libraries Amendment Act of 1877 (*see* Appendix), the opinions of the Ratepayers as to the adoption of the Acts may be ascertained by means of Voting-papers instead of by a public meeting. Resort to the new system is strongly recommended, for a public meeting on this subject usually ends in disorder. A Ratepayer may stipulate on his Voting-paper for a lower rate of assessment than the prescribed Parliamentary maximum.

In places governed by Boards:—

The Board of any District being a place within the limits of any General or Local Improvement Act shall, upon the requisition in writing of at least ten persons paying the General District or Improvement Rate, as the case may be, appoint a time not less than ten days nor more than twenty days from the time of receiving such requisition for a meeting of the persons paying such Rate, to determine whether the Acts shall be adopted, and ten days' notice at least of the meeting shall be given by affixing a notice on or near the door of every Church and Chapel within the District, and also by

advertising the same in one or more of the newspapers published or circulated within the District, seven days at least before the day appointed for the meeting; and if at such meeting more than one-half of such persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that the Acts ought to be adopted, the same shall thenceforth come into operation.

The other section as to Voting-papers being substituted is the same as for Towns with Municipal Bodies.

In 1876 a case was heard in the London Courts, *Reg. v. Portsmouth, Mayor*. Under the Public Libraries Act of 1855 a meeting was convened to consider the adoption of the Act. The Mayor, not acquainted with the fact that the old provision requiring a two-thirds vote had been repealed, and the decision of a simple majority substituted, certified that the Act had not been adopted. Whereupon Rule absolute for a *mandamus* commanding him to vary his certificate, and declare that the Act had been duly adopted.

We cannot too strenuously urge upon most districts the adoption of the Voting-papers instead of public meetings.

The sources of income in Free Libraries are from the following :—

Fines for books (1d. per week) overdue.

Sale of catalogues.

Sale of old newspapers.

Sale of some out-of-date magazines; but it is usually preferable to keep these for binding.

Borrowers' cards when renewed.

Rents from ground floor shops in some cases. By far the better plan, however, is a building totally and exclusively for use as a Free Library.

How considerable this income is for some libraries will be seen when it is stated that at Sheffield, which is perhaps a fair criterion of the whole, the income for 1883-84 was £367 4s. 5d. from the sources named below, from the chief library and three branches :—

Forfeits	..	..	..	..	..	£241	11	8
Catalogues	..	..	..	..	..	41	14	6
Tickets	..	..	..	..	..	58	17	4
Waste Paper	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	11

Mechanics' Institutes have done in the past a magnificent work, and these in some instances would form a good nucleus for a Free Library by the taking over of the building and books at a fair valuation price.



CHAPTER VIII.

FORMATION, FUNDS, BUILDING, &c.

If the vote at the town's meeting is in favour of establishing the Act, the work of the provisional committee is at an end so far as their immediate work is concerned, and the Town Council or Local Board will forthwith elect a Library Committee, to whose care the movement will be entrusted. It is very essential that the members of this committee should be men of certain sympathy with the movement, and who are willing to take upon themselves the labour, which is not by any means light, of the formation of a library. One or two of these gentlemen should be deputed to visit the Free Libraries in some of the large centres, and so gain a practical insight into their working and management. Every librarian in the country worth the name, would

only be too glad to answer questions and to show such visitors over the premises under their control.

The question of funds is, of course, the all-important one, and if the provisional committee have succeeded in securing a handsome list of promises of donations on condition that the Act be adopted, all the better, and this will be found an immense lever in bringing the ratepayers to a satisfactory decision. Promises for such a fund as this become infectious and either in the form of so much cash or so many books they aid most materially in lubricating the movement. The names of those who give books and money go down to posterity in the history of the library, for the names should be published in the first report. There is scarcely any object which could be made to so powerfully appeal to the benevolence of all sections of society as this. A church or a chapel appeals to a section; the Christianizing of coloured races appeals to a section; but a Free Library provides the charity which begins at home, and which, when established, is for all classes and continues for all time. The spirit of emulation thus helps and popularizes the movement. These appeals are rarely made in vain, as we know from experience.

As previously mentioned, the rate could be levied the first clear quarter after the town's meeting, and if committees are wise, they will in by far the majority of cases allow this rate to accumulate for a time before they take any active step towards securing a site and getting out plans for a building. We would strongly urge this as the more judicious step than taking immediate action without funds.

This method we think is preferable to at once borrowing from the Metropolitan Board of Works, Charity Commissioners, or other sources, on the security of the rates, although there is no difficulty in securing such loans at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The question of repayment of public loans for Free Library purposes has excited considerable interest during the past year, and the period has now been definitely settled, and it is thirty years. As this is an important point, not only for Free Libraries yet to be established, but for existing Free Libraries, some extracts of a correspondence between the Finance Committee of the Birmingham Town Council and the Treasury on this subject will not be out of place here.

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Council, the committee caused to be prepared and presented to the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury, a memorial, in the name of the Corporation, praying for their lordship's sanction to the borrowing by the council of a loan of £6,150, for the following purposes, viz., for the purchase from the council of the Midland Institute of certain portions of the Institute building, for the purposes of the Central Free Libraries, £1,300; for defraying the cost to the Institute of the alterations rendered necessary by the surrender of the said portions of the Institute building, also of the cost to the Free Libraries of making the necessary alterations to divide the libraries from the Institute building, together with the cost of connecting and adapting the new rooms to the purposes of the library, £1,500; for furnishing the wing of the Reference Library, temporarily used as an

Art Gallery, with chairs, tables, and desks, for the accommodation of readers, £250 ; together, £3,050 ; for the purposes of the Constitution Hill Library, £400 ; for providing fittings, furniture, and casts for the School of Art, £2,700. In reply to this application a communication was received from the Treasury inquiring whether, if the proposed loan of £6,150, under the Free Libraries' Act of 1885, was consented to, the Corporation would undertake by formal resolution to pay it as follows, viz.:—As to £1,300, £1,500, and £400, in thirty years from the date of borrowing ; and as to three sums, making up £2,950, in ten years from that date. On behalf of the committee the Town Clerk replied, “ Your letter of the 27th August, 1885, has been laid before the Finance Committee of the Corporation, and I am directed to inquire under what statute the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury consider it to be their duty to impose conditions upon the Corporation with reference to the period for the repayment of loans under the Free Libraries' Act, 1855, taken in connection with the Birmingham Corporation Consolidation Act, 1883. Hitherto the Corporation have been under the impression that the application for the loan having been passed by the Council, and public notice given of the same, and no objection taken, the loan would be sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners, leaving the Council to determine the period for repayment, having due regard to the purposes for which the money is to be applied. As the period of ten years appears to the Corporation too short a time for the repayment of the

sum of £2,500 for providing fittings and furniture for the School of Art, and £250 for furnishing the new wing of the Reference Library, it is perhaps desirable that this question should now be raised." In answer to this communication, a letter was received from one of the secretaries to the Treasury, in which he said, "I am to state that in the opinion of this Board their general power under section 16 of the Act 18-19 Vic., cap. 70, to require repayment within a certain period if they choose to attach such condition to their sanction, remains unaffected by the provisions of the Birmingham Local Act. The effect of section 87 of the latter Act is to enable the Corporation to raise any sum they choose for Free Library purposes, but that fact does not compel the Treasury to assent to whatever period of repayment the Corporation may desire to fix in the case of particular loans. The Town Clerk is correct in stating that it has hitherto been left to the Town Council to determine the period for repayment of Free Library loans, but circumstances have brought very forcibly before my Lords the great and increasing pressure of local taxation, and they consider it to be of much importance to assert in the case of Free Library loans the same principle as that suggested by Parliament in the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882, sec. 112, viz., that the generation which incurs the debt should also pay it whenever practicable. The Municipal Corporations Act prescribes thirty years as the proper period of repayment of loans raised under that Act, and my Lords consider that Free Library loans generally should have no longer currency.

With regard to furniture and fixtures, the rule my Lords have acted on, not infrequently in connection with loans under various Acts, has been to require repayment in ten years, as it is manifest that a loan for the acquisition of articles liable to deterioration, breakage, &c., should not have an equal currency with loans for the acquisition of land or the erection of substantial buildings. If, however, the fixtures in the present case are of a solid and durable character, my Lords would not refuse an extension to twenty years of the currency of that part of the loan which represents their value.” The Town Clerk rejoined with a communication respecting the interpretation of the law, enclosing a memorandum by the chairman of the Finance Committee, and, on the committee’s behalf, stating that, on the whole, looking to the permanent character of the Midland Institute and Free Libraries buildings, he was instructed to ask that the sums to be borrowed for the purposes of purchase of buildings and structural alterations, may be extended to sixty years, while the committee were willing to accept a period of twenty years as a reasonable period for the very substantial furniture that will be placed in the libraries. The following is the memorandum prepared by the chairman of the Finance Committee, referred to in the foregoing letter:—“Free Libraries Loan. I have read the Treasury letter of the 28th September, and I think that the Corporation ought to press, as a matter of principle, for a term of at least sixty years, for such portions of the loan required as are to be expended upon works of a permanent character. The sum

involved is not large, but the principle is important. The Treasury state that circumstances have brought forcibly before them the great and increasing pressure of local taxation. Capital expenditure, for the purposes of Free Libraries, is a necessity which it is impossible to avoid; and the very way to make that expenditure burdensome is to place the charges in respect of it upon one generation only, by refusing to extend the loan over a term of years commensurate with the life of the works which it represents. The principle applicable to loans for permanent works was admirably stated by Mr. Alexander Glen Finlaison, the eminent actuary, in his report of the accounts of the borough, dated 25th May, 1875. He says: 'Since posterity will get the benefit of the improvements, it appears to me that those who have brought them about should be charged with no more than the use or hire of the means which effected the desirable result. Under the present system the men of to-day will make a free gift to the men of to-morrow. Why should they do this? Let both parties share the burden fairly.' Applying this principle to the items in the proposed loan, which represent permanent structure, it would clearly be unfair to accept the suggestion of the Treasury that the term of thirty years, laid down in the Municipal Corporations Act, should be applied to portions of the present loan. In point of fact, Parliament in 1883, when it passed the Birmingham Consolidation Act, recognized and asserted the contrary principle; for it extended the period for the repayment of the Rubery Hill Asylum and other loans, from thirty to sixty years, on the

ground that the structures and works upon which the loans were expended would serve the purposes of at least two generations. Under all the circumstances, I am clear that the Treasury should be pressed to extend the term for portions of the proposed loan to sixty years; and it would seem probable that they would not be indisposed to yield. To accept their present ruling would be to admit their right to determine the period of the loan; while, to contest it, would be to assert the right of the Corporation to, at any rate, a voice in the matter." The reply from Mr. Welby, on behalf of the Treasury, further contested the view of the Finance Committee, and said: "It is of course open to Parliament to fix any term of years that may seem good for the repayment of loans raised by municipal corporations, and to extend or alter existing limits; but my Lords hold that where, as in the Free Libraries Act, Parliament has not seen fit to specify the duration of loans raised under it, but has expressly subjected them to Treasury approval, they have been invested with a discretionary power to limit the currency of such loans. The power to give or withhold approval implies the power to attach to the approval any conditions that are not inconsistent with other provisions in the Act. The enormous growth of local indebtedness during recent years, has led my Lords to consider it their duty, wherever practicable, to apply to Free Library loans the same limit of thirty years that Parliament has indicated in the Municipal Corporations Act as the maximum currency of ordinary loans raised by such corporations under Treasury sanction, even though they

may be for the purchase of land, or erection of permanent buildings. As pointed out in the statement of the chairman of your Financial Committee, such a limitation increases the immediate burthen of capital expenditure, but for that very reason its inevitable result is to restrict the amount of that expenditure.

. Expenditure on the libraries can easily be graduated according to the capacities of each generation; they do not necessarily involve a large scheme of expenditure which must be carried out at once, as a whole, if at all, as is often the case with such works as water supply or drainage. My Lords, therefore, can only sanction the raising of a loan of £6,150 by the Corporation of Birmingham, under section 16 of the Free Public Libraries Act of 1855, 18 and 19 Vic., cap. 70, repayable as follows, viz., £3,200, for purchase of land and for buildings, repayable in thirty years from the date of borrowing; £2,950, for furniture and fittings of a durable kind, repayable in twenty years from the date of borrowing."

We would most strenuously urge committees not to entertain the idea of purchasing a building and adapting it. We never yet saw Free Library houses in an adapted building which have not soon become inconvenient and unsuitable. This is a matter that we cannot press too closely on the attention of committees. If it is necessary to secure a site with a building already upon it, the bolder step of pulling the building down and selling or using the material will, in nine cases out of ten, prove infinitely the wiser method. The cost of adapting a building has, in some cases, been proved to

be greater than would have been the outlay had an entirely new structure been erected.

We are great advocates for economy in public expenditure, but there is no branch of our social system in which courageous and plenteous expenditure will more repay itself to the town or district than in that for educational purposes, and a Free Library is, in the truest sense of the term, an educational institution. Sticklers for strict economy are greatly out of place on a Free Library Committee. Be determined then, in the first instance, to have a commodious building built expressly for the purposes of a Free Library, and your townsmen will, if they oppose such a scheme, at first be led, sooner or later, to see that this has been the wiser step. Let your Free Library be a public building doing credit to the intelligence of your town, and upon which your ratepayers can look with pride and satisfaction.

It is most essential that the site should be central, and, if possible, in a main thoroughfare. As to the cost, that, of course, depends upon the size and style of architecture. We have seen some very handsome buildings erected from £2,000 to £3,000, and others for larger districts up to £6,000.

Members of Town Councils know that it is politic to give the work of designing and building to local architects and builders without being told, and in both cases it must be thrown open to competition.

The engravings of buildings and ground plans given in this work will be found useful in this direction.

The building should be divided into at least three departments, separated from each other, and comprising lending library, reference library, and news-room, lavatories, and, if possible, there should be a separate room for ladies. These, if possible, all on the ground floor, and so placed that the lending library and the staff shall be placed in the centre, and the partitions so arranged that perfect supervision of all the departments could be kept by the librarian.

Special attention should be given to the lighting and heating of the building, and, where possible, a house attaching for the librarian or caretaker, to be in readiness in case of fire.

The reading-rooms should be made cheerful by the presence on the walls of maps, engravings, etc., and pieces of statuary in the room. It is wonderful when gifts of this nature are once set going, how much can be done in securing gifts for a use such as this from the better-class townsmen.

A ladies' reading-room is indispensable, and we would strongly urge on all committees the need for boys' reading-rooms. Manchester has stepped out nobly in this way, and if the room is away from the general reading-room, and under the immediate eye of the librarian, there could not be any reasonable charge against interruption. Boys would vastly appreciate this reading-room; and how many lads would be kept from running about the streets, and falling into all sorts of mischiefs and pernicious influences, if they had a reading-room to which they could resort?

Will committees of existing libraries, and libraries

yet to be formed, allow me to plead with them for the boys who are soon to be ratepaying townsmen? Provide them with a good supply of books in the lending library, and give them a comfortable reading-room for their exclusive use. A librarian with his sympathies fresh with the rising generation would never have any difficulty in managing them. Boys are easily managed with those who know how to adopt wise methods.



CHAPTER IX.

LIBRARY FITTINGS, FURNITURE, AND APPLIANCES.

THE shelving of books with a true regard for economy of space, is a feature to be kept strictly in view; and further, to have these in such order that the librarian and his assistants know exactly the place for every book, is a matter of greater importance than the general public conceive.

The difference between Subscription Libraries and Free Libraries, in the way of order and system, is very considerable, and the former cannot compare with the latter in this respect.

The lighting, heating, and ventilation of libraries, may very fitly take the first place, and every care must be exercised to obtain the most perfect systems. The comfort of the readers, the welfare of the books, and

the usefulness and health of the staff, are dependent upon these important arrangements.

Much difference of opinion and controversy has occurred between even practical authorities upon these matters. One of the best methods of ventilation is to have gratings in the outside walls below the floors, and other gratings in the floor placed so as not to be near any of the readers, and then some outlets or ventilating chimneys placed as near the ceiling as possible; by this arrangement not only are the rooms well ventilated, but the floors are also kept dry and free from rot.

Where there is a chimney, a gas ventilation is frequently made use of; but this is expensive, and not in our opinion so good as the other method. However, if in the lighting a sunlight be used, a funnel may be carried to the outside, and will materially aid in the ventilation at night without extra expense, when it is most required owing to the increased attendance.

The lighting of libraries by the electric light is being considered, and the experiment has already been made at the British Museum and at the Picton Reading-room, Liverpool, with success; but owing to the expense and the many improvements that are likely to take place in this system, it has not been adopted in any other libraries yet. But it will doubtless in the future be the method generally approved.

There are, however, many good burners which greatly improve the light from gas, and render it far less injurious than the old burners. There are the Sugg's and Bray's burners, the albo carbon, which can

be named. There is one thing we would strongly advise, viz., the placing of a main gas tap in each department, so that the gas can be easily regulated or turned on without inconveniencing the readers.

There is little to say about heating. Ordinary fireplaces are useless in large institutions, when fifty or sixty persons are present at one time, as the first who arrive are certain to monopolize the fire to the exclusion of the great majority. By the hot air or hot water system the whole of the room is equally heated, and there is no smoke or dirt, and labour and fuel are greatly economized.

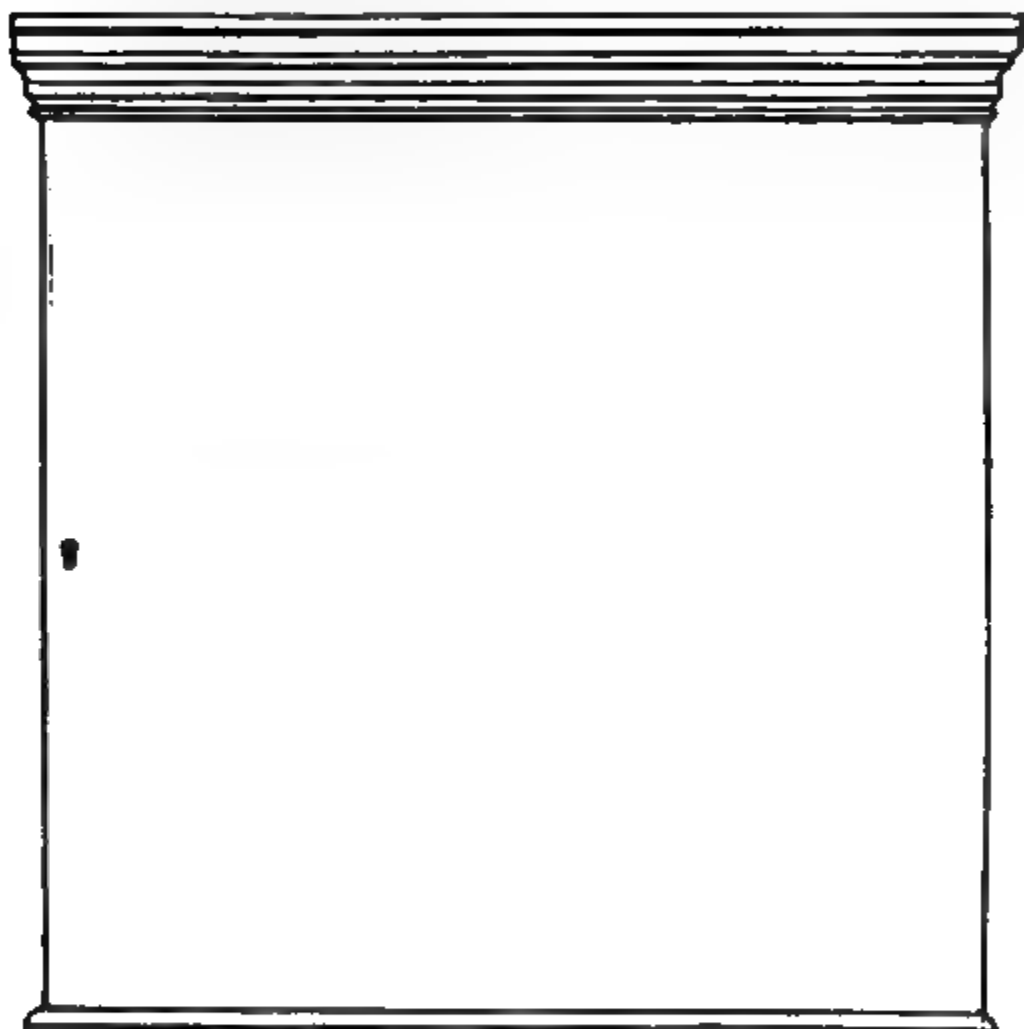
We now come to library furniture and fittings proper, such as bookshelves, newspaper stands, tables, chairs, ladders, indicators, catalogue frames, etc.

The shelves or bookpresses should, if possible, be in double rows, and standing at right angles to the walls, or up the centre of the bookstore. By this means every press may be made to hold double the number of books that can be placed upon those that are against the walls; they are also freer from damp. Their height should not exceed twelve feet, as books placed at a greater height than this, suffer much from the gas, and the labour of serving out books or replacing them is also much increased. The shelves must, of course, be easily moveable to suit the various sizes of books.

The bookshelves should have rods attached to them, and running the whole length of the presses, at about seven feet from the ground, for the ladders to hook on. These rods serve two good purposes: first, they prevent any risk of the ladders falling backwards; secondly,

they prevent the ladders from injuring or displacing the books.

One of the most useful appliances that any circulating library can possess is an indicator, and we could not do better than quote the late Professor Stanley



ELLIOT'S LIBRARY INDICATOR.

Jevons' description of the two most in use, viz., "Elliot's" and "Cotgreave's," as given in his article entitled "Rationale of Free Libraries," to which reference has already been made:—

“Mr. Elliot’s indicator is a valuable instrument, for it not only shows at a glance whether any book is in or out, but it also affords a means of recording mechanically the names of borrowers, so as almost entirely to replace the use of book-ledgers or other written records. Mr. Elliot is librarian at the Wolverhampton Free Library.

“The indicator (see previous page) consists of upright square frames, each containing a thousand small shelves in ten vertical divisions of one hundred shelves each. The two faces of the frames are identical, with the exception that the one exposed towards the public is covered with plate glass so as to prevent meddling, while the librarians have access to the inner face. Each shelf is numbered on both faces with the number of the one book which it represents. When a borrower takes a book out he hands his library ticket to the librarian, who writes upon it the number of the book taken, and the date of borrowing, and then places it on the shelf corresponding to the book, where it remains until the book is returned. If any other person comes intending to borrow the same book, he looks at the indicator, and seeing the ticket of the borrower lying on the corresponding shelf, knows at once the book is out. It is also possible to indicate, by appropriate marks placed on the shelves, that books are at the binders, withdrawn from circulation, or missing. An immense deal of trouble in searching and inquiring is saved by this simple means.”

Efficient as Mr. Elliot’s indicator may seem, Mr. Cotgreave (now of the Wandsworth Public Library) has succeeded in making improvements upon it. In this indicator (see engraving facing) the frames and shelves

are much the same as in Mr. Elliot's, but each shelf bears a very small book or ledger about three inches long and one inch wide, this attached to a tin slide bearing the number of the library book on each end, but in



different colours. When a borrower applies for any book, say 117 D, the librarian, while delivering the book, takes out of the indicator the corresponding slide and

small ledger, records in spaces therein the number of the borrower's card and the date of issue, and then replaces the slide with the reverse end foremost (*i.e.*, towards the public); any subsequent applicant will then see by the altered colour of the book-number that the book is out. Mr. Cotgreave has also devised a simple system of date marks, which will show in which week, and, if required, on what day in each week, a book was borrowed. The

chief advantage of this indicator is the fact that it preserves in the small ledger (see engraving) a permanent record of the use of each book. There are various incidental advantages not easily to be appreciated except by those frequently using these devices. It is almost impossible, for instance, to make mistakes with this indicator by misplacing cards, because all the shelves are full, except that which is being dealt with. The

numbers of the books, again, can be rearranged if required, without taking the framework of the indicator to pieces.

There should be some long counters, if possible; but if space will not allow of this, some table or ledge should be provided near at hand, that the borrowers could use for packing up their books, &c. A public board catalogue should be provided, and placed as near the indicator as convenient, so that the borrowers could refer readily from the catalogue to the indicator, to see if the desired books were in.

Newspaper stands, in the centre of the room or against the wall, should be placed in the newsroom, for, by their use, twice the number of persons are enabled to read the daily papers, who could do so if all the papers were laid upon the tables.

On the tables should be placed magazines and periodicals requiring longer perusal. When a large number of periodicals and provincial newspapers, &c., are taken, a periodical rack will be found useful. Mr. Cotgreave has invented a very handy rack for this purpose, and other articles, such as a book-reacher, &c.

Several librarians have altered indicators to suit their own particular views. There is no doubt whatever that for time-saving, exactness, and simplicity, indicators are in every way preferable to the old methods of entering in books, as well as being the least expensive in the end. It is therefore convenient to have an indicator capable of such adaptation.

Covers of some kind are desirable for such papers as lie upon the tables, and solid leather ones, though dear

at first, are cheapest in the end. Wood covers are used in some newsrooms, but they make much noise, and split if allowed to fall at any time upon the floor.

The tables should not be too large and heavy: it is preferable to have two small tables rather than one large one. They should be so constructed that their supports or underneath framework should not be in the way of those who sit by them. The chairs should be light and strong, and an arrangement for holding umbrellas is useful. A curved iron rod on the arm of the chair, and a hollow plate attached to the bottom rail, to catch the water from dripping umbrellas, in our dripping climate is advisable.



CHAPTER X.

SELECTION, PURCHASE, & CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.



THIS is no light task for whoever undertakes it, and it should be deputed to gentlemen well qualified for the work. The more these gentlemen forget their own book tastes the better; and if they can imagine themselves in the position of the general readers of a Free Library, with their varied tastes, their selection is almost sure to be a good one.

In districts where new libraries are being formed, it would be well for the book selection committee to have a number of catalogues of other libraries, and be guided largely by these. Librarians are so willing for the furthering of the movement to send their catalogues for this purpose, and these form an excellent guide by

which to work. Complete sets of the leading writers of the past and present periods are in all cases advisable, and duplicates of the works of the best-known novelists will be indispensable.

Some libraries have given up purchasing the flimsy three-volume novels, and we should be glad to see all adopting the same plan. They occupy space on the shelves which could better be given to more readable, and therefore more useful, books. Three-volume novels are becoming very much out of fashion. In Free Libraries where there is a large supply of them they may help to swell the statistics of issues, but this can scarcely be considered a healthy condition of things.

Catalogues from all the prominent publishers should be obtained, and the books suitable carefully and judiciously marked.

The supply of books for young readers should be kept strictly in view. On this question of "Libraries for the Young," Mr. Briscoe, the librarian at the Free Library, Nottingham, says:—"Even at the age of 7 and 8 boys and girls are now able to read with great facility, and the love of reading should be fostered in such a manner as would afford both recreation and knowledge. In some rate-supported leading libraries juvenile sections had been formed, but, except at Nottingham, no special rules had been framed for the regulation of juvenile borrowers. He considered it highly desirable that children's libraries should, where practicable, be located in rooms to themselves, but if possible in the same building, where they could be under the immediate supervision of the principal librarian. A

children's library for a large town should consist of at least two thousand volumes, and if all were purchased the cost would be from £200 to £250. The children's library at Nottingham was established through the liberality of Mr. S. Morley, M.P., who presented £500 for the purpose, £300 of which had been expended, and the remainder would probably be utilized in an extensive borough. In selecting books for such a library—first, they should be adapted to the varying ages of children; secondly, there should be great variety; thirdly, no books should be admitted unless known to be of a perfectly unobjectionable character, and free from the goody-goodness which disgusted the children of our day; fourthly, the books should be attractive in style, well illustrated, and not printed in smaller type than long primer."

With regard to the purchase of books. There is much complaint if these are not obtained through local booksellers; and where a discount of 25 per cent. from published prices can be obtained, it is well to give the trade to local booksellers. The purchase of second-hand books should be largely followed. There are now so many well-known second-hand booksellers throughout the country that almost anything of a purchasable nature in the way of books can be obtained from them, and thus a certain amount of expenditure can be made to go farther than buying new books all round. A discount of at least 10 per cent. can be obtained from the catalogues of most second-hand booksellers for quantities; and for new books, through some wholesale London and provincial booksellers, a little additional

discount to the 25 per cent. can be obtained for large supplies.

The subject of classification and cataloguing is a very vexed one among librarians, and it is scarcely within my province to discuss it fully here. Every librarian has his own opinion on this subject, and follows usually the method to which he has been most accustomed in the libraries where he has previously been engaged.

At the Plymouth Conference, Mr. Archer, librarian of the National Library, Ireland, read a paper entitled "Remarks on Classification." He pointed out the advantages which were derived from the dictionary-formed catalogue and classes, forming but one continuous uninterrupted alphabet, which would constitute the most facile and simple form to consult that could be devised, and as easily understood as looking out a word in the dictionary, and employed in just the same way. In the process and the compilation of such a catalogue, as one by one the works passed through a librarian's hands, of course the first step was to write the ordinary slip for the primary or full author's entry, giving, it need hardly be said, the size and imprint, and likewise when necessary, and not unfrequently in the case of collective works, giving contents. The next process was to refer the work to its class or subject heading. In this the great essential guiding principle to be followed—and that with scrupulous rigidity and unswerving constancy, with unbending adherence to the dictum "like case, like rule"—was to enter the work, as briefly as was compatible with precision, under that subject heading which was the very narrowest in scope, or most

specific that would contain it, with reference thence to the full author's entry. The whole catalogue should likewise be pervaded by a number of chains or sequences of references from each of the primary or most comprehensive subjects. There should also be cross references from all synonymous names of subjects such as might likely strike any inquirer as to the name or heading which in the catalogue was adopted as the standard one. Subject headings should also embrace the names of persons. Thus, works by and about any given writer were found simply by turning up his name in the general alphabet. Form headings were also with advantage to be introduced. Thus each of the various subject or class entries, whatever be its scope, told at a glance how many and what books, if any, falling in and embraced thereunder had been added to the library during the period over which the catalogue extended, be it the catalogue of a whole library or only a supplemental one covering a limited period. As most visitors came to look within a given scope of inquiry, the advantages of this system in saving time and trouble must be very great. By this means the inquirer might arrive by a single effort at something applicable to his needs, and in the shortest time. The day had gone by when libraries were regarded as accumulations of books merely for the learned few, who, indeed, probably needed no guide to their own specialties. Now libraries were rightly looked upon rather as repositories of instruction for the inquiring masses, and no adjunct could better promote and aid in meeting their wants than a dictionary catalogue.

Mr. J. B. Bailey, resident librarian to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, had sent a paper "On Classification for Scientific and Medical Libraries," which was read by Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, the honorary secretary. Mr. Bailey wrote that he considered it impossible that the classification that would suit a general library could be adapted to a special library such as his. In the latter case he did not think any elaborate system of classification, either on the shelves or in the catalogue, at all desirable. Indeed, to show the difficulty of the subject, Mr. Taylor Kay had pointed out in the *Nineteenth Century* that, as regards the classification of literature, he had before him 114 different schemes. He (Mr. Bailey) did not mean that books should be placed higgledy-piggledy on the bookshelves. His objection was to the attempt to do on the shelves what ought to be done in a properly made index catalogue. The difficulty in his case was that the boundary line between certain divisions of science was not so sharp and definite as it was formerly, owing to the approaches to each other that the different sciences had made during the last few years. An instance of this was in Mr. Dewey's system (good for the general library), which placed mineralogy as a sub-heading to chemistry, whereas every good book on geology treated also of mineralogy. Mr. Bailey then proceeded to point out that no amount of shelf classification could overcome the difficulty of periodical literature, and stated that the very best catalogue he had ever used was that of the Surgeon-General's Library at Washington, in which all the leading information

on any subject (including that in periodical literature) is under its own particular head.

Mr. John Brownhill's paper on "Science and Art: a Theory of Classification," was also read by the hon. secretary. Mr. Brownhill advocated main divisions, such as, under "Science," the following—Theology, Moral Science, the Physical Sciences, with subdivisions to each; under "Art" — Literature, Painting, and Music, also with subdivisions.

Mr. Madeley (Warrington), in opening the discussion, said that, although he agreed with Mr. Archer in his general advocacy of classification on the alphabetical system, yet there were one or two disadvantages of the system which ought to be known so as to be guarded against. He had found from experience, strange as it might sound, that there were many persons who did not know, until they were shown, how to find a name even in an alphabetical list. He was not speaking of students, but of public libraries. He found that a great many persons preferred to go through a page or two of a catalogue to going through an alphabetical list, and would even linger about the shelves and hunt for a book, and go away unsuccessful, to poring over a catalogue.

Mr. Herbert Mees (London) said that the question of cataloguing, whether it should be by alphabetical index or by classification, must depend upon the wants of particular libraries. He did not think that with the great growth of public libraries it was possible to amalgamate the two systems. They must be kept separate. A catalogue that would suit students would

not suit the public generally. The former wanted books on particular subjects, and knew the author for which they wanted to look, but the public reader generally required a book that would interest him, and about which he had not fully made up his mind. To ascertain the extent, each library should have its own system of cataloguing. Mr. H. R. Tedder (Athenæum Club Library, London) said that every one knew his alphabet, and the alphabetical system was the simplest and best. He strongly favoured the index system, and the adaptation of special lists on subjects such as was done in the South Kensington Museum. Mr. Frowde (Barrow-in-Furness) said his experience was that the best plan was a classification of the subjects, an alphabetical list of the authors' names, with the titles of their books, and a good system of cross references. He also thought it well to index the contents of magazines. In the former catalogues of his own library this was not done, and then the magazines were not read, but now that there was a catalogue they were widely read.

Mr. Robert Harrison (London Library) also maintained that the catalogue that would suit one library would not suit another class. In some cases, too, titles were misleading, as, for instance, Mr. Ruskin's books, and it was necessary to indicate what the book was about. He did not see that there could be a very great difficulty in such a classification as would show, for instance, all the library contained about a "cat" or a "sparrow" by a reference under those headings to the general catalogue. Then at the end of the catalogue

should be a classified list of authors, which grouped almost all the authors on any particular subject. That was the way the catalogue was arranged in the London Library.

Mr. Mullins (Birmingham Free Libraries) said that he did not think the two systems should be looked upon as rival systems, but that both should be, as far as practicable, adopted. The alphabet, *plus* classification, *plus* common sense, was the best system. Mr. Knapman (librarian of the Pharmaceutical Society) said that after ten years' trial of Mr. Melville Dewey's system, he had little fault to find with it. He did not find any very great difficulty in placing upon his shelves the books in classified order according to Dewey. He would give an example. "Mineralogy" was placed between "Chemistry" and "Geology," which he thought it would be admitted was its proper place. Mr. Plant also advocated the classifying of books on the shelves or presses, and said they had found it very convenient at his library.

As the doctors have differed so very much on this subject of classification and cataloguing, the various opinions expressed in the foregoing give a general outline of the methods now prevailing.



CHAPTER XI.

THE MANAGEMENT OF FREE LIBRARIES.

In the management of a Library there are two bodies concerned: first, the committee or commissioners; secondly, the librarian and his staff. As soon as a site is procured, and the library building commenced, the committee cannot do better than at once look out and take steps to procure a good practical librarian, and no salary within their power should be begrudged, for upon him depends the future success or failure of the library.

We would not for a moment wish to ignore or under-estimate the influence or work of the committee, but it must be plain to any one that the committee of gentlemen formed to carry out the formation of any

new library, will practically have little or no idea of the work they have before them. It becomes, therefore, of great importance for their own credit, and for the success of the institution, that they should at any cost secure the services of a man whose long experience and reputation prove him to be master of every detail of the work that has to be carried through. Assuming, therefore, that they have acted on this principle, and have obtained a competent man, it follows, or ought to follow as a natural consequence, that the committee should place every confidence in him, and give him every power and authority, to enable him to succeed in the arduous task he has undertaken.

Singular as it may appear, there have, however, been committees who have, as it were, somewhat against their will, brought themselves to the starting point of obtaining a good librarian, but having proceeded so far upon his appointment, they have at once made all haste to recoup themselves for their enterprise, by throwing every obstacle they could in his way, arguing against and objecting to every suggestion which he has made, and in fact acting as though they had appointed him unwillingly and wished his efforts to fail, so that they could point out how much better it would have been if they had been allowed to take their own course and appoint some inexperienced person who would have obeyed the instructions given him, however impracticable.

We are glad, however, to say that such cases are rare, for on most committees the majority are gentlemen and men of business capabilities, who can appreciate a

good librarian when they get one, which they show by placing full confidence in him, and treating him as a gentleman, and not as some junior clerk in a warehouse, requiring continually to be watched and checked.

It is in the end much more economical to pay a good salary to a competent and experienced librarian, than a poor salary to an inefficient man. One of the former class will very often save his committee pounds in the course of a year in knowing how to buy books and papers to advantage.

They act with him as they do with any person employed in their own business. They do not estimate him according to the religious persuasion he belongs to, or because he is a Freemason or belongs to some political party, but, like men of common sense and honesty, having engaged him as a librarian, they value him accordingly, and are quick to observe the ability and fidelity he displays in that office, and the success and popularity which the library attains through his efforts.

The number of assistants will be regulated by the extent of the library, and it must be remembered that these assistants are librarians in embryo.

Repairing books occupies no small portion of the time during the early part of the day, as well as placing books back on their proper shelves. Several committees, however, now employ a practical bookbinder for re-binding and repairs, and have found this a good and economical method.





CHAPTER XII.

WHAT PRIVATE MUNIFICENCE HAS DONE FOR FREE LIBRARIES.

PRIVATE munificence has done much for this movement. The Brown Library in Liverpool will ever remain as a standing monument of a noble bequest. During the year just closed, and the years immediately preceding, there have been other examples of an equally prominent character of worthy munificence in this direction. The Edward Pease Library at Darlington, the Nicholson Free Library at Leek, the Brunner Free Library at Northwich, the Harris Free Library and Museum at Preston, and others to which we shall refer.

In what manner can the wealthy better employ

their wealth than this? A Free Library with its wealth of books lives for ever, and we would commend this way of perpetuating a name by a similar plan, and so bestowing on generations unborn priceless blessings. There are hundreds of successful manufacturers and merchants who have in their power the means to benefit their town, and the example of Mr. Edward Pease, the late Mr. Joshua Nicholson, and Mr. J. T. Brunner, M.P., should find others to emulate so noble an effort.

As the last occasion of a Free Public Library bearing the name of its donor, we will refer to the Edward Pease Free Library at Darlington, opened on October 23rd, 1885. The event was made a public one, places of business and shops being generally closed in recognition of the event. Unfortunately the day was wet, but it cleared up at the time of the ceremony. Unpropitious weather did not prevent a large assemblage to witness the procession from the Town Hall at mid-day, to Crown Street, to formally open the Library; nor yet was there any lack of crowds, which had to be kept back by barricades in the neighbourhood of the Free Library itself, 8,000 to 10,000 people being present. The subject of a Free Library had been for a considerable period mooted in Darlington. In 1870 a vote of the ratepayers showed a preponderance against it of those who chose to record their votes. Mr. Edward Pease took great interest in the question, and in everything relating to educational matters in his native town, and left by his will—his death occurring five years since—£10,000 for the education of the

poorer classes of the borough, mentioning a Free Library, scholarships for elementary schools, or such similar objects as his trustees, Sir Joseph and Mr. Arthur Pease, might think fit. Sir Joseph Pease offered, through the Darlington Town Council, to build and furnish a Free Library, and also give a site for the same in Crown Street, a central position in the town, if the inhabitants adopted the Free Libraries Act. A considerable majority declared for the Act.

The building has been designed by Mr. George Gordon Hoskins, F.R.I.B.A., of Darlington, and carried out under his personal supervision. The style of architecture is Renaissance, and is very refined. The structural materials employed have been red pressed bricks, from Grosmont, near Whitby; red stone, partly from Dufton Quarries, Westmoreland, and partly from Newbiggin Quarry, near Carlisle; and pitch-pine timber. The west elevation (Crown Street) has a frontage of about 106 feet, and the north elevation (East Street) of about 92 feet. The main entrance is at the junction of these two elevations, at the north-west angle, and is made conspicuous by a handsome gable, which cuts off and thus destroys the severity of a right angle, this object being further attained by a well-proportioned porch, in the stone tympanum of which is some heraldic carving of a very chaste character, representing the borough arms, with its motto, "Floreat Industria," and the arms of the Pease family, with its motto, "Pax et spes." On the keystone of the arch is displayed the head of Minerva, and above it her wise bird, the owl, with its right claw upon an open

volume. Entering by this porch, we pass through swing doors, glazed with stained glass, into a handsome oval-planned vestibule, and from thence into what may be termed the public lobby, which gives direct access to the various rooms comprising the building. The general effect here is very striking; the large area of marble mosaic pavement, in the centre of which stands a white marble bust of the late donor on a black marble pedestal, on which is cast a soft, mellow, and steady light from the large octagonal ceiling light, filled in with painted glass, on which are skilfully represented sacred subjects, literature, chemistry, building, engineering, navigation, painting, and music. The bust previously alluded to is the work of a clever Darlington sculptor, Mr. Frank Priestman, and considering he has had to obtain the portraiture by the aid of photographs only, he is to be highly congratulated on the result of his artistic labours. An inscription on the pedestal reads as follows:—"This Public Library was erected out of monies bequeathed for the purpose by the late Edward Pease, Esq., of Greencroft West, in this town, and of Bewdley, in the county of Worcester, for the convenience, enjoyment, and mental improvement of the burgesses and other inhabitants of this his native place. The corner-stone was laid on Wednesday, June 14th, 1884. The Library was opened to the public with 10,500 volumes, on Friday, the 23rd day of October, 1885. This bust was erected by voluntary subscriptions." Before leaving the lobby we must notice the large screen which divides the lobby from the Lending Library. On the

tympanum of this screen, the whole of which is filled in with painted glass, is a very beautiful group of three figures, a fine conception of the architect, and most satisfactorily carried out from his drawings by Mr. W. H. Atkinson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The figures in this group are treated as statuary. In the centre is a female figure illustrative of "Progress." On her right is a male figure, in whose right hand appears the old wool comb, whilst his left arm rests upon three fleeces. On the left of the central figure is another male figure, exhibiting a model of No. 1 engine, and holding in his right hand a pair of compasses. These male figures are at once recognized as representing two early industries of Darlington. They are well posed, and the central figure is dignified, and very artistically treated. The Lending Library measures about 57 feet by 29 feet. This is admirably lighted from the roof, which is partly open timbered, and from the tie-beams of which are suspended ten effectively designed double gas pendants. The librarian's desk is immediately in front of the entrance, and by a careful arrangement of glass-panelled doors, the librarian or his assistant is enabled to see every person who enters, not only the lobby, but those going into the reading-rooms and the Reference Library. Running south from one side of the librarian's desk to a length of 43 feet, and from the other side of his desk running east for about 12 feet, are the indicators for 24,000 volumes, which enables borrowers to ascertain at a glance, without troubling the librarian, whether or not the books are "in" or "out." The remainder of the furniture in

this room consists of specially designed bookcases, &c., capable of holding 32,000 volumes. These are arranged in capital order, utilizing the floor space to the greatest advantage. The general reading-room, a fine apartment, measures 51 feet by 29 feet, and is otherwise well proportioned and admirably treated as regards its structural and artistic details. It has a very fine-cored ceiling springing from a moulded cornice and enriched frieze; from the cornice spring moulded and enriched ribs, which divide the core into panels and extend along the horizontal portion of the ceiling, dividing it also into large panels or lights, which are filled in with stained and painted glass subjects, illustrating literature, music, painting, sculpture, astronomy, and chemistry. The upper parts of the windows in this room are also filled in with painted glass illustrating different foliage, and is intended to obviate the necessity of blinds. The furniture here commands special attention. It consists chiefly of six newspaper stands, 9 feet long, and five reading tables, 12 feet long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. Umbrella holders are fixed at the end of each newspaper stand, and the same occur between the reading tables. The whole of this furniture has been specially designed by the architect. The chairs in this room are armed and capacious, with a comfortable inclination for the backs. The artificial lighting is accomplished by two six-light pendants from the cored ceiling, double brackets to each newspaper stand, and a separate bracket to each table. The reference library measures 36 feet by 29 feet. It has a good front

north light, also a top light, and is treated structurally and artificially in the same manner as the general reading-room, but the style of furnishing is different. It consists of two handsome glazed bookcases, each 16 feet long, and capable of holding 3,000 volumes; two reading tables, 14 feet long by 3 feet 9 inches wide; and a number of chairs of the same design as those in the general reading-room. The next feature which claims attention is a ladies' reading-room, for the exclusive use of ladies, with every convenience in the way of lavatory arrangements. This room is the first on the right on entering the public lobby, and is well lighted by two large windows, looking west (Crown Street). The furniture consists chiefly of two tastefully designed bookcases, to hold the various magazines, and capable of containing about 420 volumes; a table 8 feet long by 4 feet wide, and Dr. Roth's chairs, with movable back pads. The room is artificially lighted by a double pendant in the centre of the room, and reading brackets from the chimney breast. In the same position on the north as this room occupies on the west, there is a committee or "writing" room. The general arrangements in this room are to a very great extent the same as those in the ladies' room, differing only as regards a few points of detail. Two bookcases—one to contain 175 volumes, and the other fitted up to contain official documents, &c., for the use of the committee.

A public procession from the Corporate Buildings, which included the police, the fire brigade, the Mayor and Corporation of Darlington, the magistrates and representatives of other public bodies, was formed soon

after twelve o'clock, and went by way of the Market-place, Northgate, to the Free Library. Barricades had been erected, inside of which a platform had been laid down to accommodate those in the procession and a large number of ladies who had assembled. Amongst those present were Lord and Lady Lymington, Sir Joseph W. Pease, M.P., and Lady Pease, Sir H. Havelock-Allan and Lady Havelock-Allan, Mr. A. Pease, M.P., Mr. T. Fry, M.P., Mr. I. Wilson, M.P., Mr. D. Dale, Mr. Wilson-Todd, Mr. A. E. Pease, Mr. H. F. Pease, Mr. A. Backhouse; the Mayors of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Stockton; the Town Clerks of the same places, &c.

On the arrival of the procession at the Free Library, the formal proceedings were opened by prayer from the Vicar of Darlington.

Sir Joseph Pease then stepped forward, and amid cheers, remarked that the duty he had to fulfil was a simple one, but which at the same time induced feelings in his heart which rendered it somewhat difficult to discharge it. With his brother, Mr. Arthur Pease, they had great pleasure in discharging the duty laid upon them by the bequest of Mr. Edward Pease, who as a young man had worked amongst the working-men in this town, and who desired to raise higher in the scale of social and intellectual standing the men and women amongst whom he was born. He had great pleasure in handing to the Mayor and Corporation, in the presence of the daughter (Lady Lymington) of his deceased brother, the conveyance of the land and buildings.

The Mayor of Darlington having received the deed, duly acknowledged the same, and remarked upon the good qualities of Mr. Edward Pease, and welcomed to the town his daughter, Lady Lymington, to whom he then formally presented a silver key with which to open the building, amidst cheers.

Lady Lymington took the key, and having expressed her acknowledgments, opened the building. Lady Lymington, amidst loud cheering, then remarked—Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, you will, I am sure, believe that it gives me the greatest pleasure to be here to-day, and to declare this building opened. It was, as you know, bequeathed to you by my dear father, and I feel sure that his trustees, my uncles, have fulfilled his bequest entirely as he would have wished. I have the greatest pleasure in declaring the building opened.

Mr. F. Steavenson, the Chairman of the Free Library Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Lymington, which Mr. Hoskins seconded, and which was carried by acclamation amidst loud cheering.

Lord Lymington replied on behalf of Lady Lymington, thanking the great gathering for the way in which they had received his wife, who would always look back upon this day with the deepest interest. There were moments in our lives when impressions were left so powerful and so clear that years could not weaken or obliterate them, and such would be this occasion. Their thoughts were naturally drawn towards one with whom were associated his wife's tenderest recollections in the past—one whom, as Sir

Joseph Pease had said, had offered to them an example, a great example, of a great and good life—one whose presence he might say was still felt, who, he might almost say, was still among them, and speaking in their midst, through the benefits of the great institution they were called upon that day to commemorate. His Lordship then at some length referred to the value of books as educators in comparison with the more ephemeral literature, and the less matured thought given in newspapers, and instanced the effects of the works of Rousseau in bringing about the French Revolution, and of Cardinal Newman on the new ecclesiastical movement. He dwelt upon the writings of Shakspeare, Milton, and Cowper, and their influence, and in conclusion said he should never forget his first introduction to the people of Darlington.

The Borough of Preston had, a few years ago, a munificent bequest of £105,000, by a deceased townsman, Mr. Harris, for erecting and furnishing a Reference Library, Art Gallery, Museum, &c., which is to bear the donor's name, and at this date (autumn, 1885) the building, of which we give a sketch, is about half finished.

The able librarian of the existing Free Library, Mr. W. S. Bramwell, says that "from the opening of the present lending library up to the present time it has been a perfect success, and the library has been made use of by all classes."

In September, 1882, the foundation-stone of the Harris Free Library and Museum was laid by the Earl of Lathom.

The designs have been prepared by Alderman James

HARRIS FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, PRESTON.

Hibbert, who was commissioned by the Harris Trustees to visit several buildings of a similar character in this country and on the Continent, the result of Mr. Hibbert's visit and report being that he was appointed the architect to prepare the designs.

The building is of the Greek Ionic order, and has four distinct frontages, being completely isolated from the buildings around it. The principal elevation is on the west side, overlooking the market-place, and almost at right angles with the north frontage of the Town Hall. The height of the frontage to the parapet and the apex of the portico is 80 ft., and the extreme height to the top of the central lantern, 112 ft. The portico consists of six massive fluted columns, with bold capitals. It is surmounted by a bold overhanging cornice, and the tympanum is filled in with a group of figures representing Minerva surrounded by Literature, Science, and the Arts. The frontage is 130 ft. The bases of the columns of the portico and its floor level are about 10 ft. above the street level, and the entrance to the building is under the portico by flights of steps on the north and south sides. Immediately under the tympanum of the portico is the carved inscription in large characters,—“To Literature, Science, and Art.” The eastern elevation of the building faces Lancaster Road, a fine thoroughfare about 60 ft. in width, leading out of Church Street, the principal street in the town. It is uniform in length with the Market-place frontage. The north and south frontages are each 170 ft. in length, and will face two new streets, each 50 ft. in width, which are about to be constructed in connection with certain town improve-

ments intended to be carried out simultaneously with the erection of the Free Library buildings.

The collection of models connected with the industrial arts will be placed on the ground-floor portion of the central hall, with the object of bringing them under the daily observation of visitors passing to and from the lending department and the adjacent reading-room and news-room. The news-room on the south side, and the reading-room on the north side, are each 29 ft. by 55 ft.; one of the lending libraries is 50 ft. square, and the other 55 ft. by 29 ft. The central hall is 54 ft. square, and is continued, by the staircase, on all the floors, being lighted by the lantern immediately over a central well. The principal floor contains the reference libraries, on each side of the central hall. They are each 30 ft. in width, and 120 ft. in length. The central hall portion of the principal floor will be set apart as a museum of casts and reproductions from the antique. On the principal floor there is also a conversation-room, and a room for chess and draughts. The whole of the upper floor will be devoted to museum and fine art purposes. The museum galleries are arranged round three sides of the central hall and staircase, one side being devoted to the fine arts, the corresponding side to natural history and physics, and the remaining side between these to the department of general archæology, ceramics, and the finer kinds of industrial art, and illustrations of ethnology.

Adopting the statement of the architect, for the fine art galleries time will be required to form a permanent collection that can be considered equal to the objects in

view; but meanwhile much may be done in utilizing them for exhibitions of the works of living artists and of loan collections. The pecuniary means, however, immediately at command would purchase, for instance, such examples as a complete series of the publications of the Arundel Society, consisting of fac-simile reproductions, in chromolithography and engraving, of paintings in fresco by the old Italian and German masters, which might be framed and placed in the galleries. An historical collection of engravings and etchings arranged in the order of the various schools and masters would equally be attainable. Autotypes, also, on a large scale, of famous paintings in the great European galleries, and characteristic works like the "Liber Studiorum" of Turner, are now procurable. Illustrative examples such as these, though not costly, are of greater interest, and certainly of higher value in educating the public taste than those mediocre specimens of the works of living artists which form the greater part of our annual exhibitions. Modern pictures, that is, those of living artists, can only be very sparingly bought with the endowment fund, and even those only need be purchased which exhibit the best elements of the school to which they belong.

The central hall and staircase are proposed to be devoted principally to works of sculpture after the antique and later schools, and may be rendered, in a degree, somewhat unique in a provincial town. The friezes and metopes of the Parthenon, of the Temple of Theseus at Athens, and the frieze of the Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Phigaleia in Arcadia, may not only be among the

models presented of the best Greek art, but can be arranged so as to form the permanent architectonic decoration of these parts of the interior. Some of the finest works of Greek and Græco-Roman statuary, as well as of the later masters, in fac-simile reproductions, may be purchased out of the funds immediately available.

The *Architect* justly observes—"The character of the design is academical, conceivably the most appropriate. Influenced by studies of Ionian art, its chief features are simplicity and symmetry of plan, truthfulness of expression, and, in execution, refinement of detail. In the plastic arts, as in literature and geometrical science, the Hellenic race has reached the highest standard. If Greek architecture is to be retained in practical service, it is requisite, when opportunity affords, to present new combinations of its forms. For the purpose of a library and museum,—a repository of knowledge, of examples of the arts, and of specimens illustrative of the sciences,—its suitableness will be admitted. There are fashions in architecture, as in most artistic productions of the time. A structure, however, that is fit for its uses, subserves its distinctive functions, and is in harmony of expression with the nature and quality of those functions, stands above the fluctuations of ephemeral taste. Such, in this instance, is the object to be sought and endeavoured, as far as the building is concerned,—the production of a work of permanent value, an example of memorial art."

The Nicholson Institute at Leek was opened in the autumn of 1884, and the cost of the building, and the furnishing and stocking of it with books, pictures, &c.,

cost its donor about £30,000. Mr. Nicholson died in August, 1885, leaving behind a record of public usefulness and a stainless private life. The spirit in which he built, furnished, and endowed that institution, was forcibly, though modestly, set forth in some remarks which the founder made at the opening banquet. He said—"I have known what it is to struggle in life; I have known what privation is; but I have always recognized one grand fact, viz., that we ought not only to think of ourselves, but to regard others, and I never knew a time when out of the smallest income I possessed I could not afford something for somebody else."

Mr. J. Barran, M.P., said he had been a close and intimate friend of the donor of this institution for more than forty years, and he therefore knew something of the inner workings of his mind. On many occasions during the last twenty years he had made known to him his desire to do something of a substantial character for the promotion of education at Leek. Mr. Nicholson was not only a rich man in the ordinary sense of the word, but he was a rich man because he had a large heart, and because he was anxious to do all he could for the elevation of his fellow-men. He looked upon a Free Library as one of the most necessary and important things a town could have. In Leeds they raised £5,000 a year by a 1d. rate, and no money was raised so freely, or spent so profitably. The Nicholson Institute should not depend upon one source alone. There ought to be many willing contributions of the ratepayers of the town, together with the co-operation of those who had

the welfare of the town at heart and the advancement of that glorious institution.

The Institute is a large and handsome building, the central domed tower rising to the height of 100 feet. It contains picture galleries, a school of art, museum, reading-rooms, and lending library, &c. The latter contains some 6,000 volumes, including many of the standard works of English and foreign literature. The selection of these volumes rested mainly with Mr. J. O. Nicholson, who has displayed a wise catholicity in his choice, and a great consideration for the varied requirements of those who will use them. The news-room, situated on the eastern side of the library, is 25 by 40 feet, and the reference reading-room is 25 by 50 feet. The picture gallery is a handsome apartment, presenting a wall space of about 6,500 feet. The school of art occupies the lower ground floor, and comprises an elementary school and advanced room, an antique and life room, with head master's offices and stores. The whole forms an imposing pile of buildings, and is a great ornament to the town.

Mr. Nicholson was born at Luddenden Foot, near Halifax, and was early apprenticed to a draper and silk mercer at Bradford, where his business ability and perseverance soon won the confidence of his employer; he was speedily placed in a position of responsibility. In those days he commenced the study of politics by a course of reading in time stolen from sleep, and became identified with the Liberal school of thought. When he left Bradford he went to Huddersfield, and thence to Leek, in 1837, where he represented Messrs. J. &

J. Brough & Co., silk manufacturers. For many years he bore the burden of travelling when it was perhaps a more difficult task than now. Through long years no one "on the road" was better known, and many a commercial room was enlivened by his warm discussion of the current political and social subjects. Soon after his arrival in Leek he interested himself in the formation of a mechanics' institution, and in co-operation with others had the pleasure of seeing the present useful association launched into existence. His commercial enterprise speedily resulted in the steady increase of the firm with which he was connected, and to which he was soon admitted as partner. Brough, Nicholson, & Co. shortly became one of the first houses of the kingdom in the silk manufacture, and their mills and warehouses employ some hundreds of hands. Mr. Nicholson's success, too, was of a most unselfish character, for whenever principles and objects appealing to his sense of right required assistance, his substance was freely devoted to their service. In political organization the North Staffordshire Liberal Association, the Leek Liberal Club, and more recently the Leek District Liberal Association, can bear witness to this; in church work, the Leek Congregational Church, the Independent Churches of North Staffordshire, and the Congregational Union of England and Wales, can testify to his liberality; and beyond other phases of public bounty the town of Leek knows somewhat his private generosity.

The library is not yet under the Free Library Acts, and the expenses are paid by the family of

the founder. It is free to all living within a radius of six miles.

THE LATE MR. JOSHUA NICHOLSON.

The following is a description of the building from the *Leek Times*, and I am indebted to Mr. Miller, the editor, for the use of the engravings :—

“The site of the Institution is a very central one in Stockwell Street, facing south to Market Street, where an

imposing and effective view of the grand entrance, with its lofty domed tower, is obtained. This view is diversified by one of the ancient houses of Leek, stone-built and 'ivy-clad, with many blinking windows, row on row,' which, by the removal of a neighbouring modern building, it has fortunately been found practicable to retain in the foreground. With its quaint garden of sunflowers and hollyhocks it imparts a charming old-world flavour to the whole scene, and contributes very largely to the success of the *tout ensemble*. Between this venerable monument of domestic art and the new building a spacious quadrangle intervenes, and gives sanctuary to the student from the din and bustle of the street; while the many waving leaves of trees and shrubs refresh the eye and welcome the coming or speed the parting guest. The entrance to the quadrangle is sentinelled by a pair of massive stone gate piers, connected by a curved wrought iron screen and wide folding gates with pilasters carrying lanterns.

"The style of the buildings is a somewhat severe form of classic Renaissance, and the materials used are thin hard-fired local bricks with black joints, dressings of red Roche and mottled Alton stone, and Broseley tiled roofs. All the windows are glazed with faintly tinted antique glass in lead quarries.

"The leading feature of the front is the tower, which rises to a height of about 100 feet from the street. This has the spacious principal entrance doorcase at its base, supporting in the same composition the great staircase window with pedimented crown with carved urns, and large elliptical lights in each face of the upper stage.

The domed roof and lantern are covered with sheet copper, which in a few years will no doubt assume the green *paten* which strikes one so picturesquely in the old Dutch and other Continental towns.

“The other extremity of the front is occupied by a large gable, some 70 feet in height, with curved pediment. At the foot of this gable is the large bay window of the committee room, forming an open-air balcony for the annual cleaning of pictures, &c.; it is flanked by two dwarf turrets (containing small stairs and lift) terminated by stone domes with acorn finials.

“The façade between the gable and the tower has a stone balustrading with urns, and contains a large window lighting the hall. The fanlights of this window contain the effigies of four eminent men, representing the four last centuries, carved in high relief in stone from models by Mr. Stephen Webb. Tennyson stands for literature and the 19th century; Sir Joshua Reynolds for art and the 18th; Sir Isaac Newton for science and the 17th; while Shakespeare for the 15th century may be said to reflect humanity *in toto*. Above these ‘animated busts’ a carved scroll, supported by griffins, carries these words of John Milton’s *Areopagitica*—‘A good booke is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.’

“Internally the building consists of three floors, the central one elevated some nine feet above the street. On this floor the various reading-rooms, &c., are located, and the floor beneath it contains the school of art, &c., and that above the museum, picture galleries, &c.

“The reference reading-room is 25 feet wide by 50 feet long. It is furnished with massive oak tables, each 15 feet long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, reminiscent of the old Jacobean banqueting tables. The chairs throughout are Goldsmith high-backed spindled chairs, stained olive green, combining comfort and congruity with their surroundings. Easels for the more costly and unwieldy books of reference stand upon the tables, and a handsome reader's desk, for filling up application forms, stands near the entrance. The bronze inkstands, copper coalscuttles, &c., are all specially made, and bear the monogram of the institution.

“To the south of the reference reading-room is the committee room, or council room of the institution, about 20 feet by 27 feet, including a large oriel window beyond a wide spanning arch. A private entrance from Mr. Nicholson's grounds on the west side is obtained through this room, and ascends by a spiral stair to the picture galleries above. Midway up the stair, a comprehensive view is obtained from a balcony through the glazed screens of the library and the reading and other rooms of the ground floor.

“From the hall ascends a spacious stone staircase to the first floor. Its ceiling is placed at about 60 feet high, above the large elliptical windows in the upper stage of the tower, affording upon occasion considerable wall-space for an overflow exhibition of works of art.

“The staircase terminates in a roomy landing with ribbed ceiling, divided by a handsome open wood screen from a chamber set apart for cloak-room and office.

“Straight before us (and just over the news-room below) is the museum, a chamber 56 feet in length by 25 feet wide; from its oriel window one commands a fine view of the distant Roches and the road to Buxton, and it is moreover fitted up with an inviting lounge.

“Otherwise the first floor is entirely lighted by clerestories, or vertical side lights high up with a solid ceiling intervening between them: the effect of which is certainly, for comfort and substantiality, to be infinitely preferred to the flat glass shed roofs now so largely adopted in picture galleries. The height of the large rooms is 33 feet, and this enables the windows to be kept high enough from the floor to prevent any possibility of ‘glitter’ from refracted light upon the pictures. The gas-lighting, which is by continuous jets, is similarly arranged; and in a way that it lights the gallery by night at about the same angle as the daylight enters.

“The woodwork of the roofs is entirely concealed, the principals being treated as plastered arches to correspond with the various cornices, &c.; and the consequent mass of white reflects a softened light downwards upon the pictures. Two cabinet picture galleries intervene between the museum and landing and the large picture gallery. They are each about 16 feet by 20 feet, and communicate by glazed screens with the upper stage of the library, now utilized as a small water colour gallery, not being required at present for book-shelves. The large picture gallery is 25 feet by 66 feet and is furnished at one end with a platform for

chamber concerts or lectures, for which chairs can be brought up from the stores in the basement by mean of a lift, and arranged on the *parquet*.

“The area of the floor space on the first floor is about 4,000 feet; and of the wall space for picture hanging about 6,500 feet.

“Every precaution has been taken against fire. The floors throughout are of iron and concrete, paved solidly with thick wood blocks laid herring-bone wise in bitumen; and on each floor are hydrants with leather buckets and branch pipes and hose slung on rings and chains ready for immediate connection.

“The ventilation has had special attention. Fresh air supplies abound; and the over-heated and vitiated air is drawn off from each room at a high level, and conducted by shafts to a large flue in which the air is artificially rarefied. This flue discharges from the louvred lantern at the top of the tower. All gas lights exposed in the library proper have the products of combustion carried off immediately into the outer air. The warming throughout is by the low pressure system of hot water, whereby a constant and genial heat is secured.

“The school of art occupies the lower ground floor at the north side of the buildings, and comprises an elementary school, 25 feet by 37 feet, an advanced room, 20 feet by 32 feet, and an antique and life room, 25 feet by 25 feet, with head master's office and stores, entrance vestibule, males' and females' cloaks and lavatories, &c. These rooms have been very tastefully and completely furnished by the Committee of the Leek

School of Art; and are well appointed in valuable casts and copies from South Kensington, &c. The head master is Mr. Joseph A. Kean, late head master of the York School of Art. Good sloping north lights are secured in the principal rooms; and at night ventilated sunlights are used.

“On entering the ground floor of the building, we find ourselves in a spacious entrance hall, giving access to the various apartments. Passing behind a screen which encloses a kind of fold for applicants at the hospitable hatch of the lending library, we get a good view of the library itself. This room is placed in the centre of the edifice, and is 20 feet wide by 40 feet long. It extends clear through two stories to a height of 50 feet, and is well lighted from above by a large octagonal glazed lantern. It has also a north window on the lower story, and on the three other sides are lofty glazed openings in the alleys between the book-eases, giving an airy effect, and displaying the contents of the library to the adjoining reading-rooms. In height, the library is divided by open iron-grated floors into stages not exceeding eight feet apart; so that the attendants can reach any book from the floor, or a low stool, without the danger and inconvenience of ladders. The public have no immediate access to this department, so that displacement and confusion of the volumes is impossible. Book presses are provided at present for some 12,000 volumes, and 6,000 are already placed upon the shelves, numbered and catalogued in a manner which is simply perfect by the indefatigable librarian, Mr. William Hall. The library accommodation is

capable of being ultimately extended with fittings to hold altogether some 25,000 volumes.

“The library floor is raised two steps above the rest of the ground floor to give the attendants a better oversight of the reading-rooms, &c., except the portion used as the librarian’s study. A basement of the library is available for the storing of newspaper files, patent specifications, blue books, &c.; and as a workshop for bookbinding repairs, &c. On the eastern side of the library is the news-room, 25 feet by 40 feet, with newspaper wall-stands on the side and end, and tables for magazines in the centre of the room.”

As there is often much doubt and difficulty in drawing up bye-laws for such as the Nicholson Institute, we deem it advisable to give those in force at Leek a place here:—

“LENDING LIBRARY.

“The library shall be open to the inhabitants of Leek and the surrounding district within a radius of six miles, free of charge, every day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 5 to 9 p.m., except Thursday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, and the 1st to the 14th of August in each year, both days inclusive, and except such other days as may from time to time be notified. The library shall be open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except the first and second Thursdays of August in each year.

“No person shall be allowed to have a book from the library without first obtaining a borrower’s ticket, which ticket shall not be transferable.

“Every person desirous of obtaining a borrower’s ticket shall fill up and sign a form of application for the same, and shall obtain a Leek ratepayer to become surety for him, and such ratepayer will be required to sign a guarantee form.

“The same ratepayer shall not at one and the same time be surety for more than three different borrowers without the special sanction of the librarian.

“When the name of a person desiring to be enrolled as a borrower is duly entered in the book kept for that purpose, the borrower will receive a ticket, the production of which from time to time will entitle him (subject to these bye-laws) to borrow books for the term of one year from the date of issue of the said ticket; but no borrower shall be permitted to have more than one book in his possession at the same time, except with the special permission of the librarian. Works of fiction in two or more volumes shall be treated as one book.

“No person under 14 years of age shall be eligible to borrow books except by the librarian’s special permission.

“Borrowers leaving the town or ceasing to use the library must return their tickets to the librarian in order that such tickets may be cancelled, otherwise such borrowers will be held responsible for any books taken out in their names.

“Every borrower must on demand produce his ticket each time that he makes application for a book, and borrowers are cautioned against losing their tickets, as they will be held responsible for any books that may be issued in their names. Tickets that are lost can only

be replaced at the expiration of one week's written notice to the librarian, and on the payment of sixpence. In the interim the issue of books to the borrower shall be suspended.

"REFERENCE LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

"The reference library and reading-room shall be open to the public, free of charge, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on such days as the lending library may be open.

"No person shall be allowed to obtain a book without first properly filling up and signing a reader's ticket (forms of which may be found on the desk), and such signature shall be taken and considered to be an assent to these bye-laws and regulations.

"Persons under 16 years of age will not be admitted to the reference library and reading-room, except by the librarian's special permission.

"No reader shall remove from the reading-room any book, map, manuscript, magazine, or other article belonging thereto.

"No reader shall be allowed to trace any plate or engraving, and in making extracts, special care must be observed in the use of pencils, &c., so that works may be in no way injured.

"NEWS-ROOM.

"The news-room shall be open to the public, free of charge, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on such days as the lending library may be open.

“Newspapers and magazines shall not be removed from the desks and tables upon which they are placed, except by the librarian or his assistants.

“No reader shall retain possession of a paper or magazine more than fifteen minutes after receiving an intimation from another person that he wishes to read the same.

“Persons under 16 years of age shall not be admitted to the news-room.

“MUSEUM AND ART GALLERIES.

“The museum and art galleries shall be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on such days as the library may be open, and with such charges for admission as may from time to time be notified.

“Sticks, umbrellas, or parcels cannot be admitted, but may be left in the cloak-room.

“Visitors shall not touch the specimens, except with the special permission and in the presence of the curator.”

The Brunner Free Library, at Northwich, was opened by the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, on July 21st, 1885, with great ceremony. From the local papers we extract the following particulars :—

The movement for providing the town of Northwich with a Public Library dates from 1880. In February of that year a requisition, signed by seventeen ratepayers, was presented to Mr. Neumann, then chairman of the Board, asking him to call a public meeting of the ratepayers to determine whether the Acts should be adopted. The meeting was duly held in the Drill

Hall on the 19th of the same month, Mr. Neumann in the chair. There was a large attendance, especially of non-ratepayers. The proceedings were of a somewhat lively character. Mr. Weston moved, and Mr. Ward seconded, a motion in favour of adopting the Act, but the chairman, having taken the vote of the meeting, declared it lost, and no poll was demanded. The matter remained in abeyance till June, 1882, the next step being the receipt by Mr. George Slater, then chairman of the Local Board, of the following letter from Mr. Brunner :—“ Winnington Old Hall, June 27th, 1882. My dear Mr. Slater,—I recently had the pleasure of hearing from you, in conversation, that you were very favourably disposed towards a project which is and has long been very near my heart. I mean the establishment of a Free Public Library and Museum for the town of Northwich. It is in accordance with your kind request that I now address you on the subject, and I thank you most cordially for the opportunity you have afforded me of putting my project before the representatives of the inhabitants of our good old town. The result of the town's meeting, which was held now a considerable time ago, sincerely to be regretted as it was, convinced me that it would undoubtedly be advisable to proceed in a more tentative manner. I now, therefore, have the pleasure to suggest to you, sir, that you move that a committee of the Board be appointed to consider the question, and so report to the Board the result of their deliberations, and that it be an instruction to the committee to ask for the kind co-operation of the trustees of the Weaver Navigation

and of the Salt Chamber of Commerce. My idea of the matter is that this committee would gladly recommend to the Board the passing of a resolution declaring, firstly, that it is desirable in the interests of the town that a Free Public Library and Museum should be established; and, secondly, that the Board is ready to become the guardian of all gifts towards the founding and furnishing of a library and museum, which should be and remain public property. I am happy in the confident belief that the gifts will come if your Board will, as they undoubtedly can, give the stamp of permanence to the scheme. The trustees of the Weaver, collectively and individually, could, and I trust will, spare to us from their superfluity many valuable records and specimens of local interest. The Salt Chamber of Commerce might present a complete geological museum of the district, many an old map and plan, and a complete set of Acts of Parliament and of Blue-books relating to the staple trade of the county. From many an unexpected source you will receive aid and support. The antiquarian will help by-and-bye. The botanist and the entomologist will come forward, all taking pleasure in giving to their neighbours what will be an instruction and a pleasure to their children. I have no fear, sir, that you will find any difficulty in securing the services of thoroughly efficient honorary librarian and curator, or when the first is tired, after a while, in finding a successor not less able for the work. There remains to be spoken of but one subject more, and that is the question of house-room. You may, perhaps, decide to begin upon the premises now occupied

by the Board; but if you should decide against that idea, I beg to offer, at a nominal rent, a room or more that may be required in the premises in Witton Street belonging to me, and not far from the Board's office. There your stores of public property may remain until some day, possibly through the munificence of one or more of our townsmen, they may be more worthily lodged. Thus, without a penny of public expense, can a beginning be made, and after a time, when success is assured, the ratepayers will doubtless decide that the money would be worthily spent, and they will determine to adopt the provisions of the Act, and tax themselves for their own great and lasting benefit. I heartily pray that the good work may prosper. Believe me, my dear Mr. Slater, yours faithfully, John T. Brunner.—George Slater, Esq., Chairman Local Board, Northwich.”

Some time elapsed prior to active steps being taken, but so worthy an offer was not to remain unaccepted. The building, which henceforth is destined to be the chief centre of culture in the town, has been used for many various purposes in the past. Some forty years ago it was used as barracks for soldiers, who used to be marched to Winnington Park to be drilled. In 1877 it was opened as a Working Men's Club. The institution, in which Mr. Brunner took great interest, prospered for a while; but ultimately the club got into difficulties, and it was found necessary to sell the premises. Mr. Brunner became the purchaser, and since then the building has been unoccupied. The greater part of its internal walls have now been removed for the sake of a more con-

venient arrangement of the premises for the purposes of a Free Public Library. The front portion of the ground floor (which in the old building was divided into several rooms) has been thrown into one large central hall, forming part of the entrance. It is open to an outer hall, built in front of the old and between adjoining buildings, so as to give more convenient access. The back portion of the ground floor is occupied by a museum leading out of the inner entrance hall, from which there is a staircase, which leads to the library department on the first floor. The ground floor occupies a superficial area of 4,080 square feet, out of which 775 square feet are given to the museum, and 1,228 square feet to the entrance halls, the remainder being occupied by kitchen offices and outbuildings. The front entrance is from Witton Street, and is externally built entirely of terra-cotta. It has a central circular-headed doorway, between massive piers. On each side of these piers panels are inserted, one bearing the inscription, "Presented to the town by John Tomlinson Brunner, of Winnington," and the other, "Thomas Ward, Chairman of the Local Board, 1885."

Mr. Brunner subsequently gave £1,000 for books, and there have been many contributors of money, books, and pictures.

One of the chief items in the programme of the day was the presentation of the deed of gift.

Mr. Brunner (of whom we give a portrait) said this was the penultimate formal act of a project which he had treasured, he hardly cared to think how long, for it was no smaller a number of

years than twenty-seven since he stood by his father's side in Liverpool, and told him that perhaps some day he (the speaker) might be a rich man, and give a library like Sir William Brown. He had no idea of Northwich in his thoughts then, but the pleasure

MR. J. T. BRUNNER, M.P.

was none the less now that he had done this work. The pleasure was—they would understand him well—none the less that he was giving it to those amongst whom he had lived and worked and prospered during the last thirteen years of his life. A very celebrated lawyer described a conveyance of land, now a considerable

number of years ago, as a thing that was difficult to read, impossible to understand, and disgusting to touch. He was very glad to say that this deed his friend Mr. Fletcher had been good enough to put into a very fair form, and in such a case that he could ask his Grace the Duke to take it into his hands and present it to Mr. Ward for the benefit of that their dear old town of Northwich.

At the banquet in the evening, Mr. Brunner, in the course of his speech, said — “I went on several occasions to visit other public libraries in the country, and became more and more troubled about what I had done and intended doing here, and especially after a visit to Birmingham, and a long conversation with the keenly-interested friend of public libraries there, Mr. Mullins, the chief librarian there, I found I had made a very sad mistake, and that I ought to have pulled down that building instead of trying to alter it. Mr. Mullins told me, and referred me afterwards to a pamphlet that he had written on the subject, that the ideal library was a place of one room, for thus they economized the annual cost of superintendence. Now, I reflected on the very small income of the Local Board of Northwich, and since the rate was limited to a penny in the pound, I came to the conclusion that I was contemplating giving something like a white elephant. And it was led by these thoughts that I, in consequence, made up my mind to add this thousand pounds in cash. It set free for the future the funds which had been handsomely subscribed by our neighbours, so that the committee who held them might help the Local Board

in the maintenance and the increase of the library in the future."

Sir James Picton proposed "Success to the Brunner Free Public Library." As chairman of one of the largest libraries in the country, he came there to express his deep sympathy with the step that had been taken, with the generous offer of their friend Mr. Brunner, and with the success which had hitherto crowned his labours. The demonstration of that day in the good old town of Northwich was something quite refreshing, and it was, if he mistook not, something the like of which the town had not seen before. He asked them to wish prosperity to the new institution. What did success mean? It included a great many things. The first and most essential thing was that the library should be appreciated by those for whom it was intended. They could not control the class of books read by people. It was necessary that these should be left to a great extent to the readers themselves. He had found that if people began with light literature, and if a taste was acquired for reading, they would soon seek a higher class of literature. Light and entertaining literature led to better things, and in this way people's minds were educated, informed, and imbued with a thirst for a higher class of knowledge; and the great object for which the library had been established would be accomplished. As an instance of the good which had been done by Free Libraries, he mentioned a gentleman who occupied a high official position under Government in Burmah, and who had on many occasions acknowledged that his advance in

life was simply owing to the library with which he (the speaker) was connected. That gentleman had proved his gratitude by sending to Liverpool specimens of the arts, sciences, and literature of the far East, some of them being quite unique. He wished all prosperity to the Free Library. He hoped that the stream of knowledge which they had been that day tapping might go on fertilizing the plains through which it flowed. If in any way in connection with the library they at Liverpool could be of any service to them, they would have the utmost pleasure in doing what they could.

The Stirling Library in Glasgow was founded in 1791 by Walter Stirling, a merchant and magistrate in the city, and is perfectly free to everyone, and is open from 10 to 10. A total number of 14,855 volumes were issued during September, 1885, 7,007 in the reference department, and 7,848 in the lending department, being a daily average issue of 571. The daily average for the corresponding month of last year was 472. The total issue for the six months of the library year which have run is 89,176, as compared with 70,020 at the same time last year. The financial section of the report bore that fifty-three subscriptions had been paid during September, of which 24 were new, and the remainder renewals.

This library is known as Stirling's, and Glasgow Public Library, and Mr. Thos. Mason is the librarian.

There is also the Mitchell Library, a noble gift, in the same city. Return of number of volumes issued during the week ending October 3rd, 1885, excluding a nearly equal number of references to 240 current periodicals

which lie on the tables of the upper room:—Theology and philosophy, 790; history, biography, etc., 1,669; law, politics, and commerce, 432; arts and sciences, 1,894; poetry and the drama, 474; language, 221: prose fiction, 844; miscellaneous literature, 3,189—total, 9,513. Daily average, 1,585; corresponding week last year, 1,404. Issued to ladies, 86. Total from commencement (November 5, 1877), 2,914,399.

Glasgow has not yet adopted the Free Libraries Act although the attempt has been made twice—in 1876 by public meeting, and in 1885 by voting papers.

The Carnegie Free Library, Dunfermline, is a noble institution reflecting on its donor. The engraving is from the *Dunfermline Journal*.

The building, in style, may be designated “Domestic Tudor,” and presents a front to two streets. The Abbot Street part is devoted to a gentlemen’s and ladies’ reading-room on the ground floor, and a library on the upper floor. This front measures 82 feet in length and is two stories high, with ranges of square-headed windows with single mullions, the rybats of the lower windows being plain-moulded, and the upper having attached columns, with carved capitals. A moulded string course runs along the centre of the greater part of this front, and the wall is surmounted by a plain-moulded cornice filled in underneath with blocks. The principal entrance is near to the corner of this front, which at this point is treated so as to give the appearance of a square tower, and is carried a story higher than the rest of the building. The door piece slightly projects, the head of the

CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY, DUNFERMLINE.

entrance being a somewhat flat-pointed arch, deeply recessed, and supported at the sides by slender columns, with moulded bases and bands and carved capitals. The recessed portion of the arch is filled in with carved foliage, &c., and on the outer members are the words, "Carnegie Free Library." The tympanum of the doorway contains a bas-relief of the "sun in splendour," with the inscription, "Let there be Light." The doorway is finished above as a gablet, with carved stone finial. In the third story of this part of the building is the smoking-room, having oriel windows in the two angles, looking to both streets. These oriels are supported by boldly-moulded corbels, and each is topped, as a turret, with a small, slated spire. The building at this point is 60 feet in height, and the higher portion is shown as being ornamented with string courses, the line of which is occasionally broken and runs round the windows, forming hood mouldings to these, while the gablets are topped with stone finials. The St. Margaret Street front is of much the same style as the other, and extends to 70 feet. This part of the design contains, on the ground floor, a dwelling-house for the librarian, and a large recreation-room above. The front is divided by string-courses, which form hoods to the windows as in part of the north front, and in the centre is an octagonal tower rising to a height of 68 feet, and covered by a slated spire with an elaborate iron finial carrying the cardinal points. The upper windows in the southern part of this front are finished with gablets and *fleur-de-lis* ornaments. The whole of both of the street fronts of the structure is built of stone "coursers." The interior

arrangements have been well planned, and consist of a library-room measuring 57 feet 3 inches by 25 feet 6 inches; recreation-room, 26 feet 6 inches by 25 feet 6 inches; gentlemen's reading-room, 34 feet 3 inches by 25 feet 6 inches; ladies' reading-room, 22 feet 6 inches by 18 feet 10 inches; smoking-room, 28 feet by 16 feet; and a keeper's house, containing three rooms and kitchen with other necessary conveniences. The ceiling of the reading-rooms are 15 feet 9 inches in height, and the library will have an open timber roof with laminated beam under the principals, and resting on stone brackets. The centre of this ceiling is 23 feet 6 inches from the floor. The entrance hall and corridors are laid with squares of marble concrete, and a spacious stone stair ascends from the hall. On the landing of the first flight of this stair is the entrance to the recreation-room, and a flight higher is that to the library. A third flight leads to the smoking-room. Lavatories are provided on the ground floor and in one of the flats.

The second annual report shows that the total number of books issued during the year ending September 11th, 1885, from both the lending and reference departments, amounted to 63,915 volumes. Compared with the previous year, this gives an increase of 1,092, the number issued in 1883-84 having been 62,823. The following comparative table shows the respective numbers taken out of each class during the two years :—

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

	1884-5.	1883-4.
Theology	2,015	3,031
History	6,301	6,976
Law	588	638
Science	4,931	6,101
Poetry	1,721	2,016
Fiction	35,578	32,886
Juvenile	10,672	9,668
	<hr/>	<hr/>
• Total	61,806	61,316

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

	1884-5.	1883-4.
Theology	91	82
Historical and Geogra- phical Works .. .	269	206
Science	1,662	1,143
Classics	87	76
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2,109	1,507
	61,806	61,316
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	63,915	62,823

The daily issue during the year was 221, as against 219 last year. 184 volumes have been added to the Library since last report—158 by purchase, and 26 by gift. 6 books were lost, but these were readily paid for by their respective borrowers. When the books were called in in July for the annual examination, every one

was returned. There are now in the Reference Library 2,323 volumes, and in the Lending Library 10,143—making a total of 12,466. The present number of borrowers is 4,033.

Mr. W. J. Palmer, of biscuit fame, has been the prime mover and chief financial supporter of the library at Reading,

The library at Wigan had bequeathed to it a considerable sum, by Dr. Winyard, a citizen of the borough, for the erection of buildings, which were then, through the munificence of Mr. F. T. Taylor, stocked at a cost of £10,000, with a magnificent collection of books, and the whole handed over as a gift to the town; and the one at Newark is a gift worthy of the donor.

I should like to show engravings and give full particulars of the whole of these, but want of space prevents my doing so.

An attempt was made some three years ago to establish under the Act a Free Library for Hastings, but it was not successful. Sir Thomas Brassey established a Free Reference Library five years ago, and this has been an incalculable boon to the district. The total number of readers during that time has been 28,400.

The Marquis of Ripon has recently given £200 worth of books to the Municipal Library at Hull. This Municipal Library is one of the weakest apologies for a Free Library that we know, and if Hull, with its population of 78,222, remains satisfied with this, so much the worse for the intelligence of the town. The Mayor said, a few months ago, they might do one thing which had been already approved by the Council of the Sub-

scription Library—of which he was the president—namely, permit reference tickets to be issued through members of the Council in order that the residents generally might consult the books in the library. It was unanimously agreed, on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Mr. J. T. Woodhouse, to issue reference tickets to members of the Council, such tickets to be available for reference purposes except during the time of the sitting of the Council, the tickets before being available to be signed by the person issuing them, and countersigned by the member of the Council distributing them. The Mayor said that he hoped, from a correspondence he had had with the Archbishop of York, that a valuable library at Holy Trinity Church, which was now comparatively useless, would be transferred to the town, and made of general service.

We trust that Hull will be worthy of itself, and make this Municipal Library but the commencement of a large Free Public Library.

At Hucknall in Nottinghamshire, the Hucknall Colliery Company have offered £2,000 towards a Free Library on conditions that the parish authorities find the land, and they have accepted the offer.

Wherever there is an offer to build and stock a library for the use of a town or district we unhesitatingly advise that town or district to at once adopt the Act for the maintenance of that library. No other step would tend to make it a town's institution for use in perpetuity as this. A small rate might only at first be necessary.



CHAPTER XIII.

FREE LIBRARIES IN LONDON.

proper heading to this chapter would be "The Want of Free Libraries in London," for the paucity we had nearly said absence—of these institutions in London is a crying disgrace to the largest city in the world. Can there be any better commentary on the need for municipal reform in the metropolis than this? London, with its population of over 5,000,000, is a world so great that the Free Library movement has not yet touched the heart and mind of the people—and more's the pity! Will it be credited that, notwithstanding the wealth, there are only *four* outside the metropolitan area, and only *one* inside the metropolitan area? and unless steps are taken to remedy this injustice to its population, it will be a lasting dishonour to this great city.

It is only those residing in London who know how utterly impossible it seems to be to make its ratepayers interested in local affairs, and to take some combined action in the affairs of the district in which they reside. The curse of vestrydom enthralled the whole of suburban London, and the sooner there is an absolute clearance of these empty-headed nobodies the better. In no sense are these men representative. An infinitesimally small number of ratepayers elects them, and the very method of collecting the voting papers by a policeman going round with an open bag, is a condition of things which would not be tolerated another year if ratepayers would only wake up and see to their own interests. Scheming builders, dust contractors, and some others whose business it is to be in the vestry, are at present the leading members, and may the time be hastened when they shall be sent about their business. Until then no popular movement can be organized for the establishment of Free Libraries, and it remains for such organizations as the general committee of the Gospel Temperance movement, who intend opening a Free Library in Hoxton, to meet the book-hunger so very apparent.

In stating that there was only one Free Library within the Metropolitan area, we had not forgotten the City Library at the Guildhall. Useful as this is, it is only a reference library and reading-room for some weekly and monthly publications. Late in November last year this Guildhall Library was re-opened, after repairs which occupied two months. During the interval the librarian and his staff were closely engaged in preparing an alphabetical catalogue of the library, which the

READING-ROOM, GUILDHALL LIBRARY.

Corporation directed to be printed. The card catalogue—arranged alphabetically under authors and subjects—has been kept up to date, and is always ready for reference, and by its means any book in the library can be found in a few moments.

A few particulars of this old library, of which we give a full-page engraving, will be interesting.

It is difficult to fix the exact date of the foundation of the library, but it must have been between 1421 and 1426. The celebrated Richard Whittington and his friend William Bray left a considerable sum of money to build and found a library.

The principal library is 100 feet long by 65 feet wide, and 50 feet in height, divided into nave and aisles, the latter being fitted up with oak bookcases, forming twelve bays. The room is well lighted, the clerestory over the arcade of the nave, with the large windows at the north and south ends of the room, together with those in the aisles, transmitting a flood of light to every corner of the room. The oak roof, the arched ribs of which are supported by the arms of the twelve great City Companies, with the addition of those of the Leathersellers' and Broderers', and also the Royal and City arms, has its several timbers richly moulded, and its spandrils filled in with tracery, and contains three large louvres for lighting the roof and thoroughly ventilating the hall. The aisle roofs, the timbers of which are also richly wrought, have louvres over each bay, and at night are lighted by means of sun-burners suspended from each of these louvres together with those in the nave. Each of the spandrils of the arcade has, next the nave,

a sculptured head, representing History, Poetry, Printing, Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Philosophy, Law, Medicine, Music, Astronomy, Geography, etc.

The public reading-room, at the south end of the library, is 50 feet in length by 24 feet wide, lighted by a window at the west end, and also by skylights in the roof.

The Museum occupies the lower site, the floor being level with the ancient crypt of the Guildhall. The room is 83 feet long, 64 wide, and 20 feet high.

In the early part of the year 1876 the bankers, warehousemen, traders, householders, and their employés petitioned the Court of Common Council to open the library in the evening. This was agreed to by the Court, and it now remains open until 9 p.m.

The Wandsworth Free Library, opened in October, 1885, of which we give an engraving, has the proud boast of being the first of its kind within the Metropolitan area.

The account at the time of opening this library, in the *South London Press*, was so complete that we cannot do better than quote from it.

“Since the Wandsworth Free Library was formally opened by the Lord Mayor but a few days have elapsed. The applications for tickets for the lending library, and the number of persons using the reference library and the various other departments, have been beyond the most sanguine expectation. Upwards of two thousand forms of application have been given out, and there are already upon the lending library register

nearly one thousand names of borrowers. As many as 1,847 volumes have been borrowed for home reading,

WANDSWORTH FREE LIBRARY.

and 590 in the reference department, making a total of 2,437 volumes. These figures speak for themselves,

and indicate the extent to which this institution will be used when it is fully known, and a sufficient time has elapsed to enable the various applications for tickets to be attended to. In conversation with the librarian, Mr. A. Cotgreave, we were astonished at the extent to which the public appear to be ignorant upon the Free Library question. He assures us that, since the opening, numbers of persons have told him they had been informed they would have to pay a penny for each loan of a book, and that only one book would be lent to each family, and that many other difficulties would have to be overcome before they could borrow books. As a matter of fact, any person resident in, rated to, or employed in the parish can obtain books. A ratepayer has the privilege of signing vouchers not only for himself, but for each member of his family. The voucher being presented at the library, a ticket is issued, free of charge, the following day. This ticket will probably stand good for two or three years. To ensure the due return of books, which are issued for one week, one penny fine is charged per week, or part of a week, for overdue books ; but this can be easily avoided by renewing the book at the end of the week. Some trouble is also experienced with boys and girls, who, in a library, as everywhere else, are naturally inclined to be noisy, but a word from the librarian always silences them and produces order. The Commissioners wish to encourage them within proper limits, and with that object have provided a very choice juvenile library. A recreation room is also provided for games of chess, draughts, or dominoes. During the time this depart-

ment has been open 1,828 persons have borrowed draughts, 924 dominoes, and 104 chess—total, 2,856. The newsrooms contain about four hundred newspapers and periodicals, and in the ladies' room are placed about fifty magazines and other publications, such as the *Illustrated London News*, *Graphic*, various fashion papers, and duplicates of papers in the general newsroom likely to be interesting and serviceable to the fair sex. The library contains about seven thousand volumes, representing every phase of thought, and comprising some, and, in certain cases, all, the works of the leading standard authors. In the catalogue every book appears under its author, title, and subject; in addition to which copious references are made under each subject to many other works in other classes. Many of the admirable articles in "The Encyclopædia Britannica," "Archæological Journal," "Land We Live In," and other valuable works, are entered under the subject headings, so that many special articles on interesting subjects can be studied, although there may be no special *work* thereon in the library. The catalogue is simple, yet complete, and no person of the slightest intelligence can fail to find easily any book they require, if in the library. To every one connected with the formation of this library we feel that credit is due. Dr. Longstaff, the Chairman of the Commissioners, and of whom we give a portrait, has given great financial aid to the movement. His untiring and energetic zeal did much to start this valuable institution. He visited neighbouring Free Libraries, collected statistics and all other

information requisite, and agitated the matter in Wandsworth in every possible way, and after getting through work which would have appalled many a younger and stronger man, he had the satisfaction of seeing a large majority of the ratepayers voting in

DR. G. D. LONGSTAFF.

favour of a Free Library. It is fortunate for a town possessing public-spirited gentlemen of this type. If we were to collect statistics, it would be found that the splendid schools, libraries, and other public institutions of this country are primarily due to a very small

number of persons. It is to be hoped that the intelligent and unselfish few will be able ere long to effect the establishment of Free Libraries in Battersea and other neighbouring parishes."

In connection with the opening of the Wandsworth Free Library, a London journalist, Mr. J. W. Stonhill, who has the subject of Free Libraries very much at heart, says:—"Can London, with its wealth, its influence, its teeming population; London, the seat of government, the focus of fashion, the site of the noblest national institutions; London, the home of books, and the factory for making them; the chosen residence of so many authors and book lovers—can London be behind Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, not to mention scores even of little towns and villages, and possess no library where every one can read and borrow books, 'without money and without price,' merely in virtue of being a citizen, or a member of the community? Humiliating as it is to make the admission, London has been so situated, and the people of Wandsworth are first in the great Metropolis to avail themselves of the beneficent provisions of the Free Public Libraries Acts. Now that the ice has been broken, it is to be hoped that we shall everywhere see people 'going in.' The movement for extending libraries is one of the most important of the present day. Even from a political view it is one attended with nothing but good. There can be no doubt that many of the wild, unpractical, and mischievous doctrines now taught, to the danger of society and the relaxation of public morals—would be com-

pletely dissipated, if men would read and think for themselves. Ignorance is the mother not only of crime, but of vice and error, and it must be dissipated by knowledge. But those who most require to learn are usually least able to buy books. Here the Free Library steps in, and meets the want. We are placing vast powers in the hands of the proletariat—the ‘new democracy’ may be our rulers. How essential, then, it is that this democracy should not consist of ignorant, unthinking people, wafted from side to side by the specious pleadings of charlatans and demagogues.

“Much more might be said upon this aspect of the subject of Free Libraries, but we pass on to another. Books have not only their uses, but are the source of the most intense pleasure. They need not be merely instructive, they often are in the highest degree recreative. A library, then, may be regarded as a source of pleasure to thousands. It may be kept free from any of the grossness that defiles most of what are called ‘the people’s pleasures.’ It may, too, be enjoyed by all, old and young, male and female, learned and unlearned. Under proper management a library is simply an unmixed good. If Londoners would only go to Wandsworth, and see how its Public Library is managed, how useful and how much appreciated it is; we are sure it would not be long before every parish had a similar institution. Many attempts have been made from time to time to get the provisions of the Library Acts applied to different parishes, and, hitherto, without success. Objectors say that they are already too heavily taxed. Yet London is not taxed as high as

Liverpool or Manchester; a comparison of the local rates will show this to be a fact. It is upon this misapprehension that efforts to establish libraries have been chiefly frustrated. One other cause may be mentioned. The people of London, have, as a body, had no experience of the benefits derived by provincial communities from such institutions. We hope, then, that in every district of London, and in every unprovided township in the country, there will soon be a Public Library. A few energetic men, possessed of a little enthusiasm in the cause, ought anywhere to obtain the adoption of the Acts. Then, all that is needed is a good committee of management, and, above all, a good librarian."

The Wandsworth friends are not quite correct in claiming to be the first within the Metropolitan area. Westminster was the first, as will be seen from the date.

Passing now to the few other Free Libraries outside the Metropolitan area, the first which claims our notice is that of Richmond, opened in 1881, and of which Mr. Cotgreave was the first librarian. Mr. E. King, the editor of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, was the prime mover in connection with this library, and worked nobly to bring the project to a successful issue. The last report states that the total number of volumes, in both reference and lending libraries, is 11,344, of which 700 have been added during the year. In the past twelve months 77,139 volumes have been issued from the lending department, showing a slight increase on the figures of the previous year. There are now 3,354 borrowers, of whom 1,432 have joined the library since March, 1884. In the reference library 6,093

volumes have been consulted, as against 7,261 during the year 1883-4. After adding the issues of back numbers of periodicals, there is given a total of 86,138 volumes circulated from both departments.

The people of Richmond are willingly subscribing a voluntary rate of one penny in the pound, in addition to the penny levied upon all ratepayers; and this voluntary rate is for the enlargement of the building, and a generous response is being given to the appeal. Southport and Wigan are the only two other places where a voluntary rate is collected in this way. When the new bill passes, allowing twopence, instead of a penny, to be levied, a great extension of Free Libraries is sure to take place.

They are doing an excellent work at Richmond, and the library and reading-room are used by all classes. Mr. Pacy is librarian.

Westminster appreciates its Free Libraries. In 1883 the number of books issued from the two in Great Smith Street and Trevor Square was 96,727. In 1884 it was 112,816, and last year 124,921.

The Kingston Library was opened in 1881, and has 6,070 volumes, with an average daily issue of about 200.

Bethnal Green has a very unique institution, admirable of its kind, and although it bears the name of a Free Library is really not one. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and is open daily for the use of the public; it contains more than 26,000 publications of ancient and modern literature, and embraces a department of patents for inventions, another for the selection of music, a magazine room, ladies'

reading-room, and lecture hall. More than 125,000 persons have availed themselves of its advantages. The Lord Mayor, Sir R. N. Fowler, M.P., paid an official visit to it in August, 1885, to bespeak public aid on its behalf. Representative bodies of the working class, principally connected with one or other of the various trades concerned in the production of a book, marched in procession to meet the Lord Mayor. Of course, only a certain number of collectors were engaged in this peripatetic appeal, the boxes placed in their hands being of distinctive appearance, to guard against any possible intrusion of impudent imposture. A rather novel way of raising funds for a Free Library, but such are the straits to which those are put who desire to see this movement advance.

The Lord Mayor said, in the course of the proceedings, it was one of the essential duties of his office to be present upon occasions of that kind. But amongst the different localities into which a Lord Mayor was asked he always felt that the East-end of London had a peculiar claim on his attention. Because in the East-end there was a large population which did a great deal towards maintaining the metropolis in the position which it held on the one hand, whilst on the other the employers who assembled in the City derived their importance, whether directly or indirectly, from the working classes who congregated in the East-end. There were various objects in that part of London which pressed for their attention, but such an institution as the Free Library commanded their most hearty approval. He was gratified to have placed in his

hands such a long list of distinguished persons who were interested in the work. A Free Library must be of the greatest advantage in whatever locality it might be situated ; but of what prominent importance must it be to a locality where such vast masses of people are congregated together. He urged upon those living in the neighbourhood, and who were in the habit of making use of the library, to take advantage of the great opportunities it afforded them to cultivate their minds. If they looked at the biographies of those who had risen in spite of difficulties they would find that they were men who had made diligent and persevering use of such facilities as Free Libraries gave. He knew there were some men who had been remarkable in various ways without having been readers, having gained their knowledge rather from conversation with other men than by reading. With regard to such they must be men who had extraordinary powers for adopting other people's thoughts and ideas. A man who simply vegetated and did not study was not likely to improve himself or those around him. They lived in an age of newspapers ; they had day by day the means of obtaining a wonderful amount of information from them, and the learning which had been gathered from newspapers had done a great deal for the people of the present day ; but he would remind them that they must not allow press literature to supersede the importance of studying the great writers. Of course, those who wrote for the newspapers were men of great ability, and men who were able to put their thoughts before their fellow-men ; but still those articles must be hastily written, and limited

for want of space. A newspaper contributor must be a man who had studied long and well, and had learnt how to write columns at high pressure; but still they must not judge of such writings by the standard of eminent authors who had been great thinkers, and had taken time to put their thoughts into the best possible form. In the Free Library they not only found the best works of the day, but they came in contact with the great men of former ages. He believed that by acquainting themselves with the doings and works of the eminent men of bygone generations they would improve their minds and never regret the trouble they had taken. In conclusion, his lordship hoped the library would do as much good in the future as it had done in the past.

Efforts have been made in Hackney, Finsbury, Camberwell, St. Pancras, and other parts of London, supported in many instances by influential residents, but defeat has been the result. In Hackney especially, in the years 1879-80, a very strong attempt was made, and the chief opponent, to his discredit be it said, was a Congregational minister. On February 12, 1880, after the test vote had been taken, the following from this gentleman appeared in the *Christian World*:—Sir,—I had the honour and the pleasure of saving Hackney from that dear luxury, a Free Library. Some one convened a public meeting at our Town Hall, at which some gentlemen from the West and the East were to inform us of the advantages of literature, and to assert the vulgar fiction that a Free Library could not cost more than a penny in the pound, no one being allowed to say a word against the pro-

posed new rate. Then they resolved to poll the parish; but I said, "No, you must not, until we have had an open meeting to discuss the matter." Such a meeting was convened; and never was there such a storm in this quiet parish. I affirmed that the opponents of the measure as highly appreciated good books and were as anxious for general education as any of its proposers, but had these reasons against it:—It was an experiment in our wide suburban parish, most of the inhabitants of which are away from home all day. I remember several institutions which have flourished and decayed. But if this were once adopted, whether useful or useless, it would be an everlasting burden. Then we have Free Libraries and Museums in London, and many rooms where a man may read for hours for a penny, while books are so abundant that any young man can obtain more than he can read. Then there was the stubborn fact that Mr. Mundella had already moved that their rate be made threepence, because that was the least that is required to work the thing well. And there is nothing to prevent its steady increase like the School Board rate. And above all, the lower middle-class who abound here are already so heavily taxed that it is cruel to add one other penny in the pound. The meeting decided loudly and sternly against the imposition. But the projectors would poll the parish at a cost of hundreds of pounds. The very influential committee issued circulars begging people to "personally oblige them by voting for a Free Library." Mark the result, for if there be anything in public opinion I was right. Over 600

voted for it out of 24,000 ratepayers. Now, why over 23,000 should be taxed for ever for an advantage of which over 600 might or might not avail themselves I have yet to learn. That does not enter into my idea of political economy.—Yours faithfully,

J. DE KEWER WILLIAMS.

A friend of the author's, Mr. John Williams Benn, a lecturer of considerable ability, brought his skill as a sketcher to bear on the side of a Free Library being established, and issued a sheet of sketches and greatly aided the movement; but the influence of Mr. Williams in the parish was so great that it is no wonder the efforts of those favourable were defeated.

The Rev. J. De Kewer Williams is a man who has the welfare of the working classes very much at heart, and it is difficult to conceive why he should have opposed to the death such a step.

It was, of course, to be expected that such a letter as that we have given would call forth a number of replies, and we may say here that Mr. James Clark, the enterprising proprietor and editor of the *Christian World*, has, through the pages of that paper, which has a world-wide circulation, helped on the Free Library movement in a most admirable way.

Mr. J. F. Nicholls, F.S.A., then chief librarian at the Bristol Free Library, fully replied to Mr. Williams' letter; and this so thoroughly touches the heart of the question that we feel constrained to quote some portions of it. He said in the same paper:—

“Sir,—I have been a reader of your valuable paper

since its commencement, but have not felt so much pained by any correspondence in it as by that sad letter of Mr. J. De Kewer Williams on the 12th inst., in which a minister of the Gospel of Christ Jesus set up his own view of 'political economy' against that of Him whose commission he bears, which commands him to 'do good unto all men,' and 'to do unto others as he would be done by' were he in their position.

"A stranger to the Hackney people, it may be thought, ought not to intrude his views into their parochial matters; but Mr. Williams has made this library business, by your means, a national topic; and he displays such assertive ignorance of the working of a Free Library and its costs, that if his statements be left without refutation, it will damage elsewhere than in Hackney the establishment of Free Libraries. He exults in being the author of a victory. Over what? Progress, knowledge. By what means? By raising 'such a storm as was never before known in their quiet parish.' Who were his associates? In almost every other case of successful opposition, they have largely consisted of publicans and their adherents. It may have been otherwise in Hackney. Mr. Williams does not say the number of the majority over the noble 600. He cannot claim the balance of the ratepayers. There are vast numbers of persons who, favourable to the cause, can never be got to a meeting where innuendoes and incriminations that one wants to put on more taxes abound, and which ends in storms in the Town Hall, or petty squabbles in a vestry-room.

“ Now for a few of Mr. Williams’s incorrect assertions. He says—

“ 1st. ‘It is a vulgar fiction to assert that a Free Library could not cost more than a penny in the pound.’ And again—‘There is nothing to prevent its increase like the School Board rate.’ Now, sir, Mr. Williams either knew this was not true, or he ought to have known it, before he raised the whirlwind in his Town Hall, and then blazoned it in print. The Act of Parliament absolutely limits the maximum expenditure to one penny in the pound. The committee can spend as much less as they please, but they dare not exceed that sum.

“ 2nd. The rev. gentleman says—‘It would have been an experiment in a suburban parish, most of the inhabitants of which are away from home all day.’ (I wonder at his advertising this fact, if fact it be, with so heavy a criminal class in his vicinity.) But, sir, although the master can visit his club, reading his morning and evening daily, and subscribe to Mudie’s, there are at his home, on an average (counting wife, children, and servants), from four to five people. The shopkeepers and handicraftsmen do not leave the neighbourhood. All, or most of these, in our friend’s estimation, do not count for inhabitants. But ‘it was an experiment!’ Ah, just so! The Jews said, ‘The Man of Nazareth is an innovator, His Gospel is an experiment.’

“ 3rd. Mr. Williams ‘remembers many institutions that have been unsuccessful.’ Well, sir, so do we all. When this our Bristol Library was in its infancy its promoters were met with the same assertion. But

nearly all, if not the whole, of these failures arose from the fact that they were eleemosynary institutions, and men do not care to be beholden to charity. In a Free Library every man pays his share according to his rental, and has an equal right to all its privileges. An artisan, for instance, whose rent is £18 per annum, pays in the whole year 1s. 6d., for which he and his children and wife, if they please, can read papers, serials, or books in a well-warmed, quiet, comfortable room. He, his wife, and each child above twelve can borrow a book each for reading at home. The book will be of his own selection—not goody-goody stuff thrust upon him with a ‘This, or nothing!’

“4th. ‘But this would be an everlasting burden.’ So is the highway rate. Would Mr. Williams like to do his travelling on the old ratty road worn on natural earth, because he has to help by his rate the locomotion of thousands whom Providence has not blessed with his income? But, sir, is it a burden? Is an increase of knowledge, a long-sought desideratum for keeping men from the public-house, the gin-shop, and their goal, the workhouse, a likely thing to become a burden, or to increase or decrease taxation? ‘We speak what we know.’ While we write the rain is falling heavily, our news-rooms here are crowded with men, most of whom are out of employ, and this day we shall have over 2,000 men and boys comfortably sheltered, many of whom would otherwise have been driven into the public-house. Besides, to teach a man to pay for what he uses is to give him manly habits of self-reliance, and by the contact of classes to better his manners. For, sir, no one

must suppose that it is one class, and one alone, that uses the library. We have borrowers in their carriages and pairs at our doors, as well as the poor quay lumper. The news-rooms are the most frequented by the poor, but the upper and more wealthy classes are large users of the lending library.

“5th. Mr. Williams says, ‘We have Free Libraries and museums in London,’ &c. &c. Nothing to boast of in the way of Free Libraries. If so, it is very recent. Where can an artisan employed until 7 p.m. get a free book to read at his home? and how many miles must he travel supperless and unwashed in order to get there before the place closes? You have the nation’s glorious library and museum, but what good is that to the Hackney shopkeeper or mechanic?

“6th. ‘Mr. Mundella moved to increase the rate to threepence.’ So he did, and he lost. Does Mr. Williams not know that the expenditure is entirely decided by the Libraries Committee, an elected body, amenable to their constituents? Such an increase of the power to lay a larger rate would be a gain to many a small country town, but would be unnecessary in a large metropolitan suburban parish. In order to calm Mr. Williams’s fears, and to lead him, I hope, into a better path—for I feel as Peter did towards the Jews, ‘I wot that through ignorance ye did this,’—let me briefly show what the Free Library Committee have done in Bristol. There was in this city an ancient library, founded by an old Puritan, in 1613, for the use of his fellow-citizens only. The books were mostly heavy folios of the scholiasts, &c. &c. There was no

endowment. The building was tolerably central: the Committee have purchased three others, in widely separated parts of the city, and amidst the densest portions of its population; these have been altered, fitted, and furnished, at great expense.

“Within each building they have—

“(1) A news-room, large and lofty in three cases out of the four, which is free to all, citizen or stranger, rich or poor, and which rooms are generally full from eight in the morning to ten at night. They contain all the leading Imperial, local, and county papers, the organs of every denomination, of every section of the Church, the trade journals, and in three of them there are nearly all the leading serials and magazines.

“(2) A room for boys especially, but many men resort to it, to read the works of Adams, Kingston, &c., and to see the pictures in the old *Illustrated News*, &c. These rooms have an average attendance of over 100 a day each.

“(3) A lending library of selected works, which are lent on the guarantee of any one burgess of the city (not being the borrower, if he should be a burgess) for one week, and which can be renewed at the expiration of that period.

“(4) A library of reference, without fiction (this is in the central only).

“Now, for one year's work, from June, 1878, to June, 1879, there were lent out for home reading 315,215 volumes. Less than 10s. would cover the loss of books thus lent. In the reading-rooms, for books

only, the issue of volumes was 106,238; here the loss was one volume, 2s. 6d. Making a total of books issued in twelve months of 421,453 volumes, at a loss of about 11s. For these statistics we can show the figures. The readers in the news-rooms come and go without check, and we can only estimate them. A fair calculation gives us 45,000 per month, or 540,000 persons accommodated in the year, many of whom can read papers, lists, and reviews, which are not to be seen anywhere else in Bristol.

“Fines are enforced of one penny per week overtime on books, which are paid ungrudgingly; these in one year amounted to more than £425.

“All this—the purchase of buildings, alterations, fittings, furniture, stocking with books, instalments of debt paid every half-year, fair equitable salaries to competent assistants, gas, water, taxes, wear and tear or renewal of books, and purchase of new publications—is done well for the penny rate. I rejoice to say that the Committee do not consider their work finished, but contemplate ere long to extend their operations.

“7th, and lastly. Mr. Williams says, ‘the lower middle-class are in Hackney heavily taxed.’ Where are they not?

“But in Bristol they have the sense to see that a Free Library not only gives them a *quid pro quo* for their penny, but that the practical result is to lessen taxation, poverty, and crime. I must apologise for so lengthy a letter. I dislike controversy; having but a single arrow, I have shot it, not to wound or to hurt, but to let in a little light where it may chance to fall. Like

Mr. Williams, I have the courage to avow my opinions, and, more than he, the ability to verify my facts, and remain, Sir, yours faithfully, ——”

Then in a footnote after other letters the Editor said : —“ We think that the statements which have been made with reference to the subject are amply sufficient to show that in the midst of considerable populations, where any measure of public spirit and of active intelligence is to be found, a Free Library is a most valuable institution, and need not alarm the heavily burdened ratepayer on the score of expense.”

Westminster is justly proud of its Free Public Library. The last report (1885) gives the number of volumes issued to borrowers and readers at 124,921—making the daily average issue 407—and the number of visitors to the reading-rooms 463,570. The chief library in Great Smith Street now consists of 16,044 volumes, and the branch library at Trevor Square consists of 2,541 volumes, making a total of 18,585 volumes. Mr. Henry E. Poole is the librarian.

So great is the rateable value of these various parishes of London that in most of them a rate of one farthing (or even less) in the pound would be sufficient to commence, stock, and maintain a Free Library. Who would feel such a burden as this?

The following is the rateable value per annum of the various London parishes :—

Camberwell	..	..	..	..	£907,433
Chelsea	..	..	..	..	£639,631
Clerkenwell	..	..	..	..	£334,194
Hackney	..	..	..	..	£991,807

Hampstead	..	..	..	..	£439,228
Islington	..	..	..	..	£1,488,397
Kensington	..	..	..	..	£1,711,683
Marylebone	..	..	..	..	£1,392,531
Paddington	..	..	..	..	£1,237,040
Poplar	..	..	..	..	£693,063
Lambeth	..	..	..	..	£1,307,747
St. Pancras	..	..	..	..	£1,488,397
Shoreditch	..	..	..	..	£585,452

Londoners require awakening on this subject. The opposition results chiefly from an utter misconception of the uses, cost, and scope of a Free Library.

“Please I want a book *for my baby to play with!*” was a request, says somebody, actually made to a librarian at a Free Library; and so this very childish argument that the books borrowed from such a source would be badly used, is one of many such advanced against them. The penny rate alarms them. And yet, surely, to cry down Free Libraries on that ground is a case of “*penny wise and pound foolish.*” The more time a working man spends in the Free Library or at home, with a book or newspaper, the less time he has for getting drunk, which is too often the only form of recreation open to him now. And the less of his wages he leaves in the public-house or gin-palace, the more, of course, he has to lay out in other ways. Free Libraries and coffee-palaces are about the best feeders of the small tradesman’s till that have yet been devised—a fact that has been put to the test in places where libraries and reading-rooms are in full force.

It is the more to be regretted that the movement has not yet spread to London, as we believe that there are

not a few wealthy friends of the cause who would give largely towards buildings and books, were the current expenses secured by the adoption in a parish or district of a "libraries rate." The London vestries, however, are slow to move; and we frankly confess that we see no hope for London in this respect until some drastic measure of municipal reform is placed on the statute-book.

About the year 1880 an association was formed called "The Metropolitan Free Libraries Association," but it appears to have existed only in name.

Now is the time to arouse public opinion, and so prepare the way for the increased interest which will be taken in local affairs when municipal reform comes.

It is said by the opponents of Free Libraries that Londoners are more highly assessed for local rates than are the provinces, but this is disproved by a Parliamentary report.

We earnestly trust that the next ten years may see a Free Library in every one of the vast districts into which this immense city is divided.

The method of procedure where districts are governed by vestries is essentially the same as for boroughs. The chairman is requisitioned, and more than one-half—that is, a simple majority—can decide the matter, or the voting can be by papers. The Act terms those comprising the Library Committee, that is, those appointed after the Act has been adopted, "Commissioners," but there is no other vital difference.



CHAPTER XIV.

FREE LIBRARIES IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

there is need for an extension of the Free Library system in towns, there is still greater need for them in rural districts. Residents in villages have, as a rule, much more time for reading than those in towns. There are not the attractions which the town presents, and a Free Library and News-room in every village would do much to help in solving that problem of the day, how to prevent immigration from rural districts to the towns; for there is no doubt that one chief cause of this is the dulness to many of living in the country. There requires to be a greater choice than the prosy week-lecture in the church school-room on the one hand, and the public-house on the other, with its

inviting nooks and bright fire. Those who regret to see so much centralization will find one solution of their difficulty in the establishing of Free Libraries and News-rooms, or affiliating themselves to the nearest large Free Library.

An admirable paper read by Sir Redmond Barry at the first Conference of Librarians, describes how the great Library at Melbourne sends out its wealth of knowledge and pleasure to the small places in the neighbourhood; and there seems no reason why the Free Libraries in the principal towns of England should not send out their weekly or monthly chests of books to the small towns and villages there, to be issued and looked after by the schoolmaster or some such responsible person—the school-house being used at night, too, as a reading-room, and the whole carried on at a very small cost, such as might be met by a small vote from the rates.

Much has been done in rural districts in the supplying of books by workmen's clubs, but the extension of the franchise to counties cannot fail to vastly extend the reading of books in the country, and this increased demand can only be met adequately by a Free Library.

The question asked by residents in rural districts as they become acquainted with the Free Libraries of large towns is—"How shall we set about the establishment of such an institution as yours upon equally free, equally broad principles?"

I cannot do better than quote some portions of a paper read by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, librarian, Plymouth Free Library, on "The Best Means of promoting the

Free Library Movement in Small Towns and Villages.” He says : “ Upon inquiry I found that the largest income they could receive from the local rate would be wholly inadequate to support a Free Library on the smallest scale ; and what, therefore, could I advise, but that they should appeal to the inhabitants of their town or district for voluntary help ?

Not only towns in the West of England, but others in various parts of the country, are eager to be ‘ up and doing ’ in this work, but doubtful about the way.

There is therefore, unquestionably, the *need* for the universal application of the Free Library system, and a growing desire to adapt its principles to the requirements of any and every community.

For we, as a nation, in spite of our many privileges, are far behind some of our neighbours in the great work of education. We were late in the field with a national education scheme, and now our American brethren have almost distanced us in the race by their establishment of Libraries as recognized natural institutions. How long shall such a state of things continue ?

I next come to the consideration of the *means* which have already been adopted to meet the great need.

About thirty years ago the Mechanics’ Institute was established to meet the growing demand for education amongst the toiling portions of the community. The present state of those institutions, wherever they have so far stood the test of time as to exist at all, will be a sufficient evidence that they do *not* answer the purposes for which they were set on foot ; they lack some of the most *vital* elements which contribute to success.

There are doubtless some notable exceptions to this rule, but, as far as my experience goes, Mechanics' Institutes are not providing for the requirements of the time ; while, as to the communication between them and the 'mechanic,' the latter is simply elbowed out of the institution bearing his name and designed for his exclusive use. The Mechanics' Institute is rapidly declining into a mere vehicle of popular entertainment and popular lecture, and offers but little encouragement to study.

Mechanics' Institute libraries are almost entirely devoted to the supply of fiction and popular books of travel ; while books of reference, works in art, science, and general literature, scarcely find a place on their shelves.

This class of institution has, then, failed in its purpose, so far as it does not present itself to the age as *the* means whereby the people may become a reading people, in the truest sense of the term.

Mechanics' Institutes failing to meet the want, there arose another class of institution, the 'Working Men's Association.' This movement (started some eighteen years ago) has since grown into the 'Working Men's Club and Institute Union,' with its central organization in London.

Having had considerable experience with these clubs, I can speak with some degree of assurance and knowledge of their working.

Many such clubs have proved failures, and have been closed ; many more linger on in a state of semi-activity ; a few, perhaps, have proved successful, but principally by the exertion of what I may term artificial efforts.

The want of success has arisen from a combination of circumstances which it would take too long here to detail, even if it were necessary. The chief element of failure has certainly been lack of funds, and the difficulty to provide all that was necessary to interest and attract the particular class for which these clubs were designed from the scanty pittance derived from members' subscriptions.

I am aware that considerable sums are yearly received for the benefit of these institutions from wealthy patrons and well-meaning philanthropists; in fact, it has fallen to my lot to have recourse to this very expedient, in order to keep alive one of the clubs which, until recently, existed in my own town.

Such efforts may be justifiable in making a start, or when a particular impetus is required, but I cannot conceal from myself the fact that such institutions cannot be called successful when their managers are obliged to seek extraneous aid from year to year to keep them open, and I am confident that few of these clubs can be kept open without such aid.

And what, as a rule, can be said of a Working Men's Club library? A few hundred volumes of odd books gathered together from the four corners of the town, without any attempt at judicious selection or systematic arrangement. A few books, perhaps, of a solid character, which have crept in quite by accident, but the majority of the volumes are mere outcasts from private collections; few which a student will care to read, none that a bibliophile would prize—antiquated editions of musty divinity, or obsolete scientific treatises, which have lain on the

shelves of their former owners long enough to accumulate the dust of a generation, unknown, unread—

‘Remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow.’

But the funds of such a club have probably never been sufficient to warrant the outlay of money in the purchase of standard works, or new editions to replace the worn-out worthless stock. What wonder, then, that the working man who goes to such a library comes away frequently disappointed at the small choice of literary food provided for him! What wonder that the man of keen intellect and healthy appetite for reading, requiring, as he does, good solid food, should turn disgusted from a store which offers so little attraction!

And then as to another accessory of the club—the club-room. How rarely do we find this useful part of the club as light, cheerful, and comfortable as the members would like it to be! What wonder, then, that in nine cases out of ten the ordinary man finds more attraction in the comfortable parlour of the public-house than in the bare, unfurnished club-room!

I do not pass judgment upon Working Men’s Clubs as such, but simply point out the fact that they do not supply *the great need*. Nor do I say that all such clubs are failures financially, for there are instances where great pecuniary gain has resulted from active exertions.

But when I examine the efforts as a whole that are put forth to bring about success—remembering that the object stated in the original prospectus of the Working Men’s Club and Institute Union was to draw men from

the public-house and its influences, out of the reach of temptation; and, comparing this with the state of affairs at present, find that one of the chief measures advocated, nay, adopted to keep these institutions open, is the encouragement of the sale of intoxicants in the club, I can only conclude that this movement also is not a success, and that Working Men's Clubs have *not* supplied that great want which their originators proposed to supply.

I cannot refrain, in passing, from drawing attention to a work which is now being carried out by the managers of certain co-operative societies in the country—viz., the establishment of large lending libraries in connection with their central stores. This is undoubtedly a wise provision, and it bids fair to be successful in its results.

Now comes *the* question—Is the Free Library movement *the* best means that can be adopted to supply the *need*, and, if so, in what way can it best be placed within the reach of all?

It may be fairly assumed that the Free Library has up to the present time fulfilled the purpose of its projectors, and the secret of its success lies in the fact that the movement was not started so much in the interests of any particular class or section of the community, as by and for the whole community. It is open and free to all—knowing no caste, acknowledging no precedence of rank, birth, wealth, or station; making no stipulation as to a man's political or religious convictions.

We will assume, therefore, that the *need* which the Mechanics' Institute and Working Men's Club failed to

supply, the Free Library has to a certain extent already provided.

Our large towns have the power in their own hands to establish and support these institutions—a power, moreover, conferred upon them by legislative enactments; and the Free Library, once established, is thenceforward recognized as a municipal and as a national institution.

Even in towns where the revenue is large, however, the amount realized under the provisions of the Act is insufficient to meet the growing demand, and to keep these institutions in a thorough state of efficiency. If, therefore, this difficulty of revenue be felt in the larger towns, how much more must it affect those towns of which I speak, where the means are altogether lacking?

Supposing the work to have commenced by securing the adoption of the Act, the rates are found to be so low that the sum realized annually would be quite inadequate to pay for the services of a librarian, to provide premises, furniture, books and periodicals. Unless, therefore, the promoters can see their way to realize a proper income to carry on their labours, and could by dint of great exertions raise enough money to start the scheme, what is the use of beginning?

Mr. A. M. Pendleton, in the first of his interesting articles published in the *Library Journal*, has in a very ingenious manner told us how funds may be raised to start a library—viz., by a systematic assessment and canvass of the whole town, ‘somewhat on the plan with which Aaron Burr is said to have

managed the politics of New York, which was to make rich, lazy men give money; rich, mean men give labour; poor men time and interest; young men enthusiasm; and so every one of the thing he could spare most of.'

This is doubtless an excellent plan, but one requiring certain conditions to make it effective—conditions which, I fear, are scarcely to be met with on this side the Atlantic.

In the first place, a man need have a more than ordinary stock of enthusiasm, besides abundance of spare time, to set about such a work in the systematic manner suggested. Further, he must have a class of persons to deal with who are more easily persuaded to part with their money than (as experience teaches) will the ratepayers of our small towns: for if ever an Englishman carries a privilege to excess, it is in taking advantage of the privilege to grumble, as he delights to do, at every penny expended in local rates or Imperial taxes. From what I know of such persons, I think the mere attempt to *assess* them, to gauge their pockets in fact, in the manner suggested by Mr. Pendleton, would be likely only the more effectually to close them.

Mr. Pendleton, moreover, does not take into account the power of opposition—a power which too often exerts itself, and has lately so exerted itself in a very unpleasant degree: take Bath and Chatham as examples.

I have thus endeavoured to show that the *need* is a reality, and that various plans which have been adopted have failed of their object. Further, I have assumed

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that the Free Library is *the* institution most nearly supplying that need; and I now propose to point out various methods by which the advantages of this Free Library movement may be more widely spread.

First. By the union of small towns around a central one for mutual help. Thus, in a district in which a large city or town has within a radius of twenty miles a number of small towns or villages, not one of which is wealthy enough to start and support an institution by itself, a central depôt might be established, with branches in the outlying districts, from which supplies could be drawn; a continued exchange and interchange of the best books might thus be obtainable, while branch reading-rooms might be supplied in a similar manner.

This is but a suggestion, I make no pretensions to elaborate a scheme. Nor am I aware of the existence of any such union; the nearest approach to it seems to be the branch and delivery systems at Boston (U.S.), detailed in the Annual Report, 1877, of the Boston Libraries.

The Working Men's Club and Institute Union organized a similar plan some years since in connection with their affiliated societies, agreeing, under certain conditions, to forward selections of books from their central library to recruit the stock of country libraries: but this is on such a small scale that it can scarcely be said to furnish an illustration.

My *second* proposition refers to the utilization of Board Schools as branch or general libraries. That

this plan is practicable may be attested by the experience of my friend, Mr. James Yates, of the Leeds Libraries, where the Board Schools have been thus used for some time.

My *third* and last proposition is by far the most important, and perhaps the most difficult of execution.

It is, that an effort should be made to secure *State aid* in the formation and for the support of Free Libraries and Museums, and I trust that the action recently taken by the authorities at Birmingham, in concert with other towns, may be closely followed up and enlarged upon, until success is assured.

The State provides elementary schools, nay rather, it compels the ratepayers to establish schools. It uses compulsion towards the children themselves, but it also aids such schools from imperial funds according to the results of the teaching in those schools.

Now, seeing that the State does all this, might it not go a step farther, extending its aid to our libraries, which are, after all, but higher-class schools?

Would it be an extraordinary stretch of liberality if the State, after training the children for a few years in these elementary schools, were to supplement that training by assisting the progress of these higher educational establishments, when, by the force of circumstances, the children are compelled to leave those schools?

The taste for reading has been instilled into the young mind, and ought to be encouraged and developed; but what chance is there of such

development, unless material is provided for it to feed upon?

I do not say that the State should entirely provide these institutions, but that it should aid the community in sustaining them by governmental grants, as in the case of our schools.

Here I cannot do better than quote a paragraph from an important article in the *American Library Report*, by Mr. F. B. Perkins of the Boston (U.S.) Public Library.

Under the head of Maintenance he says:—

‘The circumstances of the case must determine how each library is (financially) created and maintained. But there is one excellent practical rule, already proved healthy and efficient in its application to common schools, which ought to be applied to public libraries as far as possible. It is this: That the community as such (that is, by public money, not through fees paid to the library) should pay something for its privileges. Unrestricted gifts to the public, like unrestricted charity to paupers and beggars, are almost certain to be undervalued if not abused. In our best school systems, the receipt of the State money by a town for school purposes depends more or less on the energy with which the town raises money of its own. God helps those who help themselves. The State finds it safe to imitate the Divine example in this particular; and so in the case of libraries. A State grant for the purpose, to depend on the raising of a proper yearly amount by the town, is the most American, that is, the most direct and effective, method of promoting the library department of our systems of public

education. On precisely the same principle, private gifts for the same purpose should be upon the same condition. This plan secures not only beginning but continuance; not only birth but healthy life. It is comparatively easy to produce a revival, either in religion or literature, and thus to found a church or a library; the real task is to maintain it in its proper growth and health afterwards.'

I fully endorse the opinions of the writer, and trust that an attempt may be made in this country to seek for legislation in the manner described.

But how would such a measure more particularly apply to small towns? By securing them a larger income in proportion to that raised by themselves.

Thus, if a penny rate were collected, the State might supplement it with a similar sum, or at least one-half, the existing Act being duly altered to meet the requirements of each case.

I have within my recollection several towns where the movement languishes for lack of just such support, where a few earnest men are willing to spend their time and money to bring about the desired result; and I also know of others in which the adoption of the Act has been opposed on the ground that the promoters could not give a clear idea as to *ways and means*.

I am firmly convinced that, were the plan so ably set forth by Mr. Perkins adopted in this country, we should soon see a large increase in the number of Free Libraries, and a corresponding improvement in the moral and social condition of the people.

Induce them to read books of an elevating character,

books which will at once instruct and amuse, and a great work has been inaugurated.

After all, is it not far better to spend the money of the State in the education of her children than in prison discipline and legal restraint?

Such institutions as those for which I contend are great civilizers and great levellers.

They teach men their humanity in a variety of ways, and tend in a great measure to remove the barriers which separate class and class, and the mere fact that these Free Newsrooms and Free Libraries are for the whole community, and not for a particular class, or for privileged ticket-holders, tends greatly to their success, and augurs well for their permanence as national institutions.

It is well, therefore, that the materials should be made ready, in order that the grand superstructure of national education in its external appliances, at least, may be complete."

I have quoted at length from Mr. Wright's practical paper, touching, as it does, the heart of this question.

There is, however, another side to this question, to which I should like to call attention. As the large towns are fed from rural districts with workers, so a large proportion of the most successful men of business of the present day were born and received their education in country schools. Why should not these do something in providing literature for the districts with which they were once associated? Under the head of "A Village Library," the *Leisure Hour* (edited by Dr. Macaulay) for October, 1885, says:—

"We have seen lately the report of an interesting event in a country place. Connected with a chapel where the Rev. W. Urwick, M.A., laboured for nearly a quarter of a century, was a 'Mutual Improvement Society,' in which the pastor took warm interest. One of the youths, now prosperous in London, presented a library to his old schoolroom at Hatherlow, near Stockport, and Mr. Urwick was invited to inaugurate the event. It was a graceful thought, and suitable gift, and it is worth recording as an example to be followed by those who look back with pleasure to the congregation or the parish associated with their early training. Many are the rich merchants in England, or in the Colonies, who could thus do good to the youths of their native place."

The sketch shows this library, which is worked entirely on the Free Library system. It would be quite possible for others to place a similar bookcase, perhaps less elaborate in mouldings, etc., and stock it with some 300 volumes for £100, and this does not represent a large gift to hundreds who owe their origin and education to country districts.

Mr. Thomas Cook, of tourist renown, presented last year to the villagers of far away Iona, in Scotland, a large collection of valuable books as an addition to the library founded by the late Rev. Leigh Richmond, in 1820, and other gifts of a similar nature could be made to every village in the country, if former village lads, now successful business men, would only view the matter in its right light.

The jubilee of a noteworthy library was held last

A VILLAGE LIBRARY.

year at Nottingham. In August, 1835, seven operatives contributed one penny each to purchase the "History of Priestcraft" of William Howitt, himself a Nottingham man, we believe. Two more members joined in the week following, and from that time until now their number has increased, and their books with them, until they have now over 7,000 volumes, embracing various departments of science, theology, history, travels, and general literature, stored, for another remarkable circumstance, in the very room in which John Blackner wrote his excellent "History of Nottingham." We wish all good luck to the Nottingham Operatives' Library.



CHAPTER XV.

FREE LIBRARIES IN BOARD SCHOOLS.

mere fact of there being school accommodation in England and Wales for no less than 4,826,738 or the year ending August 31st, 1884, and an average attendance of 1,273,124, shows, in a very brief form, the educational machinery which is in operation. The total number of schools is 18,761, and we purpose now to enquire into the extent to which Libraries have been established in these schools, and how they can be extended.

Turning to the last report of the Education Department, issued recently, and bearing the date of June 20th, 1885, we cull some interesting facts relative to the provision for lending books, as mentioned in the reports of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

One-sixth of the entire population of England and Wales are at school, and it is to these that political, commercial, and social power will by-and-bye come.

Let ratepayers particularly think of the influence for good which a well-selected library will have on the minds of the scholars. To schoolmasters and mistresses it is unnecessary to mention, for they are already alive to the great advisability of establishing libraries in schools.

The report of Mr. J. R. Blakiston, M.A., chief inspector in the North-eastern Division of England, says :—

Mr. Dibben, a sub-inspector, writes :—

“I am glad to report the formation of a library for the use of the teachers in Dewsbury district. The books are kept at three centres, Batley, Dewsbury, and Heckmondwike, and the number of books issued has been very encouraging. If managers and teachers could only see with the examiner's eyes the difference in the papers worked by those who read and those who do not read, surely books would not be left to grow dusty and mouldy on their shelves, and more support would be forthcoming for such a worthy object.”

In some few schools in Sheffield district one sees small libraries. I would I saw them more frequently. I should like also to see every town supplied with a library of school books open to teachers, where they might compare books and select the best, instead of being, as now, at the mercy of the publishers' travellers, and led to choose books rather for their woodcuts and binding than for their higher qualities.

Mr. Legard states :—

“In many of my schools small museums are now being set on foot, consisting of objects likely to interest and instruct children, the latter often contributing some of the articles.

“The council of the Central Museum in Leeds has kindly consented to fit out a cabinet, containing trays, illustrating different natural history objects, and to allow this cabinet to circulate among the elementary schools.”

In the report of the Rev. J. J. Blandford, chief inspector in the North-central Division of England, comprising the counties of Chester, Derby, Nottingham, and Stafford, I do not find any mention of school libraries.

The report of Mr. J. G. Fitch, chief inspector in the Eastern Division of England, and in the East Lambeth Metropolitan District, states as follows :—

Among subsidiary aids to school instruction, I may mention that in 155 of the schools included in my returns, school savings banks are in beneficial operation, chiefly owing to the stimulus given in this direction to managers by your Lordships' Circular in August, 1881. In 397 of the schools lending libraries have been established. My colleague, Mr. Swinburne, records the result of an interesting experiment which he has made in the Beccles district in connection with a local prize scheme, and with a teachers' lending library. He says :—

“To meet a partiality to the practical side of education, and to overcome apathy, I have tried competition and the public exhibition at one centre of the work done,

with class-lists, numerous prizes, and the remarks of one of the best London judges upon the specimens. The main feature of the scheme is the idea of competition for the honour of their school. The work is done at the school (to save travelling) on a stated day in the presence of a lady manager, who posts it the same day with a certificate as to genuineness. Composition, penmanship, reading, recitations, cookery, &c., are similarly encouraged—committees of teachers judging for these—and I scarcely know how to thank enough either the teachers for the disinterested way in which the whole district for nearly four years has supported me, or the ladies who, headed by the Duchess of Hamilton, the Countess of Stradbroke, the Lady Caroline Kerrison, and others, have liberally and heartily responded.

“The above scheme has facilitated an attempt to start a library. A sum of £70 (Sir Richard Wallace heading the list with £10, and Lady Caroline Kerrison and others following, while the teachers themselves raised about half the sum by collecting cards), with an annual subscription of 2s. from each teacher, has enabled me to purchase many of the best books on travel, biography, teaching, fiction, &c., which are now in the hands of the teachers, the whole district (with very few exceptions, from change of teachers) having eagerly joined. The district is divided into 14 depôts, each depôt under a managing teacher, and each teacher keeps his book for a month and then passes it on.”

In the report for the Welsh Division I do not notice any reference to school libraries.

The tone of the reports of the chief and sub-in-

spectors is certainly in the direction of the scholars—in the schools where Libraries are provided the intelligence of the scholars is of a higher and more practical character than in schools where a Library does not exist. The cost of establishing and maintaining these Libraries is a small part, comparatively speaking, of the amount annually expended for educational purposes. The total income for schools in England and Wales is £6,121,538, and of this £915,474 comes out of the rates, and £1,734,115 is the income from school-pence, and our contention is that, apart altogether from voluntary gifts of books or money for the purchase of books, there should be no difficulty, under the present rate of expenditure, of establishing a Library. An outlay of £50 will purchase say 350 books, a number sufficient for most schools.

Apart, however, from the establishing of Libraries free to scholars in schools, there is no reason why there should not be a closer affiliation between Free Public Libraries and Schools. We have already mentioned that the Liverpool Free Library and Museums make up cases of specimens for use at the Board Schools, and as noticed in this chapter, the council of the Central Museum in Leeds has consented to fit out a cabinet containing trays illustrating different natural history objects, and the time is coming when boxes of books will be made up in the same way from the large central Free Libraries. It is interesting to see what is being done in this direction in America.

A recent report of the Commissioner of Education contains some observations on the functions and use of

Public Libraries. We extract the following as bearing on the connection between Public Libraries and Schools:—

“ Much attention is given to the use of Libraries in connection with the public schools. Once it was the complaint that, though the school and the library stood side by side, no bridge stretched from the one to the other. Now librarians and the trustees of libraries generally, are trying to co-operate with teachers and parents in directing into profitable channels the reading of children and youth. The younger children are helped to select interesting and instructive stories, and books of history and travel; older ones are guided to the sources of history, the authorities in science, and the finest examples in literature. The choice of the books is aided by the acquaintance of the teacher with the tastes and capacities of his pupils, the discernment on the part of the librarian of their wants, and his knowledge of the books that will supply them, and by the increasing abilities of readers to choose for themselves. Many circumstances and influences must unite in order to produce the highest degree of mutual helpfulness between the school and the library. Some of these essentials are mentioned by Mr. W. E. Foster, of Providence, as follows:—

“ ‘ On the part of the pupil, then, are requisite a continuous mental development and sufficient scope of individuality: on the part of the teacher and librarian are requisite a genuine interest in the work and mutual co-operation. The choice of methods must aim to bring the strongest light of interest to bear on the presenta-

tion of each subject, and must be essentially direct and personal, and must follow up the first steps of continuous efforts. Instead of a policy which contemplates brilliant but superficial operations should be chosen one which, with patience and persistency, enters upon measures which require time for their development, but whose results are substantial and permanent.'

"A few years ago the trustees of the Quincy (Mass.) Public Library adopted a rule by which each of the schools might become practically a branch library, the master selecting a number of volumes from the main library, and circulating them among his scholars. In the Wells School, Boston, a plan has been devised for promoting the study of good literature. It involves the loan from the Public Library to the public school of copies of some one book sufficient in number to enable the pupils of the school to read the same book at the same time. Once a week they are examined in a free conversational way as to the structure of the work, the relation of its parts, the spirit in which it was written, the excellence of its style and diction, and similar qualities. It is said that after a few months' study of 'Leslie Goldthwaite's Journal' the pupils 'came to have a perception, more or less clear according to the intellectual endowments of individual girls, of all those elements by which the professional critic is enabled to give judgment upon the value of any novel as a work of art.' The use of Libraries has been greatly increased in Cincinnati by interesting public school scholars in authors of unquestioned merit. The school district Libraries of California are meeting with marked success.

It is not too much to say that seven-eighths of them are doing good service in the education of the people. Mr. Foster has given some excellent rules for the guidance of pupils in their use of the Public Library. They are as follows:—

“ ‘ (1) Begin by basing your reading on your school text books. (2) Learn the proper use of reference books. (3) Use books that you may obtain and express ideas of your own. (4) Acquire wholesome habits of reading. (5) Use imaginative literature, but not immoderately. (6) Do not try to cover too much ground. (7) Do not hesitate to ask for assistance and suggestions at the Library. (8) See that you make your reading a definite gain to you.’ ”

We understand the Coventry and other Free Library Committees have had under consideration the system above described, by which local public schools would be brought into direct relation with the Free Library of the town. This plan is so practical, and likely to be productive of so much usefulness, that we sincerely trust other Library Committees will take into their consideration this method.

Mr. James Yates says:—“ Although the Leeds Free Library had been successful beyond anticipation, there had been failures. After being established for several years, it was found that some of the branches were not doing adequate work for the amount expended on them. These were consequently handed over to the School Board, with success. With the establishment of the county boards and the enfranchisement of the agricultural labourer he trusted we should soon see that

a series of county libraries would spring up under the Public Libraries Acts. In these many valuable works dispersed from noble houses might be gathered together again."

They have also established Free Drawing Classes in Leeds. The success of the movement inaugurated by the Association for the Promotion of Evening Science and Art Classes in Leeds has been so great that the Association has resolved to extend its operations. Last winter two free drawing classes were held, but that number has now been increased to four. The classes, which will be under the care of experienced art teachers, have been opened in the Board Schools at Jack Lane, Primrose Hill, Whitehall Road, and Burley Road. The classes will be held on the evenings of Tuesday and Friday in each week, and will be open to all youths who have left day schools, and who possess a certificate of good character from their day school teacher, or from the foreman of the workshop in which they are employed, or from any member of the Leeds Trades Council. Each pupil will be required to provide himself with drawing materials, which can be obtained at a cost of probably not more than sixpence. It is intended, also, to commence free classes in mathematics at the same schools on the evening of Monday in each week. The subjects taught will include Euclid, algebra, and higher arithmetic.

The number on the register for England and Wales between the ages of seven and thirteen was 2,798,945; between thirteen and fourteen, 147,296; and above

fourteen, 40,023. Here are the readers for school libraries, but where are the books?

We cannot close this chapter without calling the attention of all concerned to the adaptability of Board Schools to be used in the evenings as public news-rooms, and, in some cases, as Free Libraries. These buildings are public property, and there is no valid reason whatever why they should not be used in the way suggested. The cost of opening and maintaining them as news-rooms would be so infinitesimally small that our wonder is candidates for School Boards have not made this a special feature in their addresses. The expense could not, of course, come out of the School Board rate, and other sources of income, but public and spirited enterprise will in any district easily bridge this difficulty.

A writer in the *Christian World* says on this subject:—
“Yet even more important still it is to provide some wholesome occupation and resort for the tens of thousands of lads who have left our Board Schools and are just shaping themselves into men. In several of the large Free Libraries, where statistics on this head have been carefully kept, it has been found that fully one-third of their frequenters are between the ages of 13 and 20. Nothing can be of more vital moment to the well-being of the nation than to provide some safe and healthy channel for the activities of this class of the population. It is a poor economy, having educated them at a cost for London alone, counting none but rate-aided schools, of considerably over a million a year, to drift them off uncared for, just when they most need a helping hand. A taste for reading,

and the means for gratifying it, are perhaps the very best preservatives a lad can have against the degrading attractions of the London streets. Looking even to motives of self-interest alone, it may be questioned whether London ratepayers could do better than follow the example set them in the provinces, by providing themselves in each parish or district with a good Free Library, at the small cost of a penny rate. The plan has been proposed, and an excellent one it is, to utilize the Board Schools for the purpose of Free Libraries. From 5 p.m. to 11 they could be so used, and in that case even a halfpenny rate would suffice to furnish forth as many well-stocked reading-rooms and lending libraries as there were Board Schools in a district."



CHAPTER XVI.

FREE LIBRARIES IN AMERICA AND CANADA.

IN educational matters generally, it has been conceded on all hands that there is much we have been able to learn from our enterprising cousins on the other side of the Atlantic. The author of this little work has spent some happy hours in a few of the Free Libraries of Boston and other cities, and we desire to bear our testimony to the Free Library spirit which pervades the leading cities of the Union, and particularly of the New England States.

The first Free Public Library established in America dates back to 1700, and this was established by a clergyman who had been chaplain to the English governor of the then Province of New York. It is

somewhat remarkable that the first addition to this library was a gift, about thirty years afterwards, by the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Other libraries followed, and about the year 1750 the public took up spiritedly the need of libraries, and a large subscription fund was commenced. Mr. Edwards says that "it was estimated, about the year 1850, that there were within the United States 149 collegiate libraries, containing in the aggregate 1,083,954 volumes. Eleven years later, namely, in 1861, returns which extended to 117 only out of the 149, assigned to that portion of the collegiate libraries an aggregate of 1,222,148 volumes. Many of these libraries had been originally gathered by combined efforts of a very varied kind. British statesmen, clergymen living in rural parsonages scattered throughout many parts of the United Kingdom, merchants of London and of Liverpool, took part in the establishing and well-furnishing of libraries for the American colleges; and sometimes a part hardly less zealous than that taken by the governing bodies and the student societies of the colleges themselves. The dry details of the 'donation books' of not a few of these institutions are pleasantly enlivened by records of numerous gifts from the mother country to her offspring over sea. This recognition of a true community of interest in intellectual matters, as well as in matters of a more worldly sort, was not broken off by the Revolution of 1776. Few Englishmen are now ignorant of the fact that the American colleges have, in later years, made many a noble though an indirect return. Many a man

who derived part of his productive culture from the silent teachers in the college libraries, which friends in Britain helped liberally to furnish, has sent back to Britain imperishable books to adorn her own collections, and to be counted with their best."

Under the head of Libraries in Board Schools we refer to the school libraries of America, and these have formed the chief libraries of the rural districts. The wants of the towns and cities have been met to a considerable extent by State Libraries, as they are termed. These were originally established in the towns which were the seat of the Legislative Assembly for the individual states, and were intended for use by the members of the local parliament, as they term these bodies. From this first intention, however, they have greatly developed, and they are now to all intents and purposes Free Libraries, and contain, in the majority of cases, admirable selections of books. The books are accessible to the public, and these number at Albany, the seat of government of New York State, as many as 70,000. The reading-room is open twelve hours each week-day.

Boston was the first American city to adopt Public Libraries, and it would have been somewhat strange had it been otherwise, for the city has no small ground for claiming to represent the intelligence of the American nation. Boston refinement and culture ranks equal to that of the West End of London, and it is from this city and the adjoining New England States that most of the efforts have come for the benefit of the American community. The proximity of Cambridge, a suburb of

Boston, where the Harvard University is situated, no doubt largely aids to make the Bostonians proud of their intellectual attainments. This is the *Alma Mater* of such prominent Americans as Mr. James Russell Lowell, who has recently presented the Harvard Library with some hundreds of volumes.

The mark of the Puritans is still unmistakably left on these New England States. There is a solidity about them lacking in other parts. Educationally, politically, and commercially, they take the lead of any state in the Union. It was from here the impetus for the Civil War for the abolition of slavery came, and it is from these states that most of America's best men were born and lived, the descendants of sterling English blood. Every leading American writer of books almost can be traced to these states. Hawthorn, Longfellow, Whittier, Emerson, and others—all names enshrined on the walls of every English library worth the name. With such an ancestry and reputation, Boston would have lacked some of its great glory had it not taken the lead in establishing Free Libraries, as distinct from the school libraries and the State libraries.

In 1847 Josiah Quincy, the then mayor of the city, intimated to the city council that "a citizen (himself really) has offered to give to the city a thousand pounds for the purpose of founding a public library on condition that a further sum of £2,500 should be raised by a public subscription, and that the library when formed should be opened to the public in as full a manner as may be consistent with the safety of the property." The council replied "that the city of Boston will accept any

donation from citizens or others for the purpose of commencing a public library, and further, that whenever the library shall be of the value of £6,000 it will be expedient for the city to provide a suitable place and arrangements to enable it to be used by the citizens with as great a freedom as the security of the property will permit." This was quickly followed by an Act passed by the Legislature of Massachusetts empowering the council to "establish and maintain a public library for the use of its inhabitants," but it was not until a few years afterwards that it was put into effect. Nations influence nations, and individuals influence individuals, for weal or woe, and the emulation of an offer which came in 1852 from a Bostonian, Mr. Joshua Bates, offered to contribute books to the value of £10,000. A Free Library had then just been opened in Manchester, the first under the Act in England, and an amount of public attention was thus called to the matter which gave an impetus to the attention being at that time given to the subject in Boston.

Givers of books, and other philanthropists who bestow gifts for the use of the public, are the names which live in local history; and Mr. Joshua Bates' name will go down to posterity blessed and revered by the countless numbers to whom his action aided to confer a privilege on the community. So spiritedly did the Bostonians take up the matter, that he gave 26,000 volumes of books in addition to the £10,000 previously offered, and which was funded for the maintenance of the library.

Between the years 1855 and 1860 Boston spent

(to use the words of a Bostonian) in founding her great Free Library more than eight shillings for each man, woman, and child within her limits, and she has sustained it to this day with great spirit and liberality. That library has now more than 360,000 volumes, and

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

her citizens in 1879 took to their homes more than 1,160,000 volumes.

We give a sketch of this building, the site for which cost £23,300, in which was included a liberal provision of additional land to meet possible and future needs. The building cost some £49,400, making a total of

£72,700—a truly magnificent sum for any city to spend for the mental welfare of its community.

Many smaller places in New England and elsewhere, not without careful investigation, have followed her example, finding in the practical results of her twenty years' work proof satisfactory to their taxpayers, that a Free Library is a profitable investment of public money; while in the West the great cities of Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, with Western open-handed energy, have already Free Libraries on such a scale that one at least of them bids fair to rank among the largest in the world.

Boston has now eleven branch Free Libraries in addition to the Bates Hall, and a total number of books of 453,967, with a total annual issue of about 1,050,000 volumes.

Each state passes its own local laws, and Boston had adopted this plan so far as a library was concerned; but in 1851 the special provision which had been made on behalf of the city of Boston was made general throughout the Commonwealth, and took the form of “An Act to Authorize Cities and Towns to Establish and Maintain Free Libraries.”

The main powers of this Act ran as follows:—“Any city or town of this Commonwealth is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a public library within the same, and with or without branches, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, and to provide suitable rooms therefor, under such regulations for the government of said library as may from time to time be prescribed by the city council of such city, or the

inhabitants of such town." The Act further provided "that any city or town could appropriate for the foundation and commencement of such library as aforesaid a sum not exceeding one dollar (roughly four shillings) for each of its rateable polls in the year next preceding that on which such appropriation shall be made; and may also appropriate annually, for the maintenance and increase of such library, a sum not exceeding one shilling for each of its ratepayers in the year next preceding that in which such appropriation shall be made. Any town or city may receive, in its corporate capacity, and hold or manage any devise, bequest, or donation for the establishment, increase, or maintenance of a public library within the same."

New Bedford, in Massachusetts, was the first town to establish, in 1851, a public library under this Act; and the library commenced with less than 6,000 volumes.

Private munificence has done much for American Free Libraries, and among other benefactors we may name George Peabody, who gave, in addition to a large sum of money, 2,500 volumes of books to his native place of South Danvers, another New England town, as the foundation of a Free Library.

The building which forms the Astor Free Library of New York is one of the sights of that not very beautiful city. The name of Astor is known throughout the length and breadth of the United States, and the foundation of the vast wealth of this family was made by John Jacob Astor, who settled in New York in 1784. He engaged in the fur trade, but the real

increment to his wealth came out of fortunate investments in what the Americans call real estate, that is, land or property. He bought a great deal of land on which New York now stands, and it was the growth of the city which made his wealth, not the hard industry of his own hands. The terms of his will, referring to this library, showed that he was sincerely desirous of benefiting the city from whence his gigantic fortune had come. As this portion of the will is deserving of being recorded, we give it. He says: "Desiring to render a public benefit to the city of New York, and to contribute to the advancement of human knowledge and the general good of society, I do, by this codicil, appropriate £80,000 out of my residuary estate to the establishment of a public library in the City of New York to the intent that the said amount be disposed of as follows:—in the erecting of a suitable building for a public library; in the furnishing and supplying the same from time to time with books, maps, charts, furniture, and other things appertaining to a library for general use, upon the most ample scale and liberal character, in the maintaining and upholding the building and other property, and in defraying the necessary expenses of the accommodation of the persons consulting the library. The said library is to be accessible at all reasonable times and hours for general use, free of expense, to persons resorting thereto. I further direct that a sum not exceeding £15,000 may be expended in the erection of a building for the library, and £24,000 may be expended in the purchase of books, and the

remainder shall be invested as a fund for maintaining and gradually increasing the library."

One of the trustees to this will was Washington Irving, an almost life-long friend of the founder. The library contained in 1883 about 200,000 volumes.

The building which forms the home of the library is of a substantial character, although architecturally it is not, strictly speaking, an imposing edifice. One of the guide-books of the city says that "the front—which has perhaps too little mass or 'spread' for effect—is rendered somewhat striking by the deeply recessed and arched doors and windows, the rich brown-stone mouldings and mullions, and still more by the boldly projecting cornice, &c., all beautifully wrought in the same material. On opening the main entrance door, the eye falls at once upon a beautiful flight of thirty-six broad marble steps leading, between straight walls of solid mason work, to the second floor of the building, which is the main floor of the library. The principal room is a hundred feet in length, by sixty-four in width, and sixty in height. It is lighted by windows at either end, and by a long and broad skylight. Several alcoves, or recesses, open both in front and in rear, fill up the space on each side of the room, from the side walls to the columns which support the roof, leaving corridors of communication, two and a half feet in width, along the walls. This one room will hold 100,000 volumes. Each alcove has a light gallery, eleven feet above the floor; and the galleries extended in front of the wall shelves, form a continued corridor from end to end. Within the

columns which support the roof, the room is open from the floor to the skylight, but is divided into two stories between those columns and the outer walls. In the second story there is a series of alcoves exactly corresponding to that upon the first floor, and with similar galleries above. That part of the library which is divided into alcoves is separated from the open area in the centre by a light iron railing. The open area is provided with reading tables."

It is greatly to the credit of trustees of the Astor Library that the building did not cost more than the sum specified by the donor, viz., £15,000, exclusive of the fittings. These are of very elaborate character, and were paid for out of the interest on the bequest. Dr. Cogswell was entrusted by the founder with the selection of the first books for the library, and he made three separate journeys to Europe for this purpose.

The Astor Library is a reference, not a lending, library. It is, however, largely used, and has been an immense boon to the residents of the city.

New York has other Free Libraries, but it can scarcely be said that the empire city equals Boston and other cities in its Free *lending* Libraries.

With regard to Canada, a paper was read at the June (1885) monthly meeting of the Library Association by Mr. James R. Boosé on the progress of Colonial Public Libraries. This paper treated the subject in a very comprehensive manner, and from it we extract the following particulars :—

I take it to be one of the principal objects of the Association to obtain and communicate information on

all questions relating to library administration and bibliography, not only in the United Kingdom, but in our colonies generally, which are getting better known and more appreciated year by year. It is therefore a matter of much gratification to me to be the first to bring before the association such a subject as that which I have chosen, uniting as it does all our colonies under one head in the common cause of providing institutions of essential importance for the promotion of civilization, and for the benefit of their separate communities.

The Dominion of Canada claims our earliest attention as being the first colony to establish libraries. As far back as the year 1779 there was a public circulating library at Quebec containing about 2,000 volumes. This library was maintained until a few years ago, when its books were transferred to the Literary and Historical Society of that city. This is the first instance I have been able to trace of the existence of a public library in Canada. From an old magazine published in 1824 it was found that there were some libraries in the large towns of Quebec, Montreal, York, Kingston, and Halifax, but I cannot gain any information as to their extent, or what has become of their collections of works—with one exception, however, that of Montreal, which, as far back as 1823, had a public library of 8,000 volumes, containing many valuable works, and “well supplied with new books.” This collection has doubtless been distributed amongst the more recently established societies which exist at the present day.

There are few public libraries in Canada, though attention is now being generally directed to the necessity of establishing them in centres of population. Already the agitation has had a very satisfactory result in Ontario. In the session of 1882 the Ontario legislature passed an Act (45 Vict. c. 22) "To provide for the Establishment of Free Libraries" in that province. According to this Act a petition may be presented by not less than 100 electors in cities, and from ten to thirty in other municipalities, praying the council to take measures set forth in the Act to establish a Free Library. For the purpose of providing for the expenses necessary for carrying out the Act, a municipal assessment is made annually upon all ratable real and personal property, not exceeding one half of a mill on the dollar. Free Library debentures may be issued by the council on the requisition of the board of management, in order to purchase and erect the necessary buildings, and obtain books and other things required. Since the passage of this Act a good Free Library has been established in Toronto with 20,000 volumes, and was opened in the year 1883. The number of volumes at present is about 45,000. There is no doubt that the collection of works will rapidly increase, and prove of immense value to the citizens, as well as providing intellectual amusement to thousands of the working classes. Such an effort as this will do much to promote and stimulate the progress of education, not only in Toronto, but throughout the province of Ontario. There is also a small Free Public Library at Guelph, in the province of Ontario, containing about 5,000

volumes, which was opened in February, 1883. Montreal at present has no public library, though a movement is now on foot in that city to provide such an institution. At the recent meeting of the British Association at Montreal a proposal was brought forward by Sir Richard Temple, and seconded by Professor Boyd Dawkins and Sir William Thomson, for the foundation of a Public Free Library, towards which a munificent anonymous donation was announced, but Sir Henry Lefroy, in a paper on the British Association in Canada, read before the Royal Colonial Institute, states, "there are difficulties of a social nature growing out of the municipal constitution of the city not likely to be soon overcome, but the weighty advocacy of these distinguished persons cannot but have strengthened the movement." In referring to the necessity for a public library in Montreal, the following paragraph appears in the Handbook for the Dominion of Canada: "A student in Roman Catholic theology and kindred subjects can find all he requires. In Protestant theology the Presbyterian College (consisting of 10,000 volumes) affords very good material. In civil law the Advocates' Library (15,000 volumes) is a useful one. In some departments the McGill Library (25,000 volumes) is pretty full, but if any one in Montreal wishes to carry on researches requiring general works of reference he must go to some other city. The Government publishes many useful documents for the information of Parliament, but in Montreal it is nobody's business to keep them. There is not a set accessible for reference. Thousands of

copies are scattered broadcast among people who use them for waste paper. It requires a distressing amount of labour to carry on the most ordinary inquiries in history, politics, sociology, art, or general literature."

Canada has still much to learn in the way of establishing Free Libraries, especially when compared with the Australian colonies, as will be seen on reference to the chapter under that heading.

As an evidence of the wide-spread interest which is now being shown in this question, the following article appeared on January 21, 1886, whilst this book was passing through the press, in the London *Daily Telegraph*, and I cannot forbear finding a home for it in this chapter:—

"Although in 1850 an Act was passed by Parliament to empower towns and districts to establish Free Libraries, and to tax their inhabitants for that purpose, we regret to say that the United Kingdom still lags far behind the United States in the number of institutions of this valuable kind which it possesses. Under the Act of Parliament in question, amended and extended in 1855, the councils of English towns with a population of 5,000 souls and more, may, after due notice, convene a public meeting of their burgesses, two-thirds of whom may resolve to open a Free Library, and to pay for it by imposing an annual rate, not exceeding one penny in the pound, on their inhabitants. A similar Act was subsequently passed for Scotland and Ireland, but was confined to boroughs with a minimum population of 10,000. In

the United States, on the other hand, there is no limit downwards, as regards the places in which Free Libraries are established; and many a European sojourner in an American town has had reason to bless the craving for knowledge which inspired its inhabitants to place within reach of every resident the newspapers and magazines of all countries, and no less than thousands of standard books which have come down the stream of time. In more than one American Free Library the noble words delivered by Sydney Smith at the Royal Institution are inscribed in large letters upon the wall, 'Therefore'—such are the words in question—'when I say, in conducting your understanding, love knowledge with a great love, with a vehement love, with a love coeval with life, what do I say but love innocence, love purity—love that which, if you are rich, will sanctify the blind fortune which made you so, and teach men to call it justice—love that which, if you are poor, will make poverty respectable, and forbid the proudest to mock the meanness of your fortune—love that which will comfort and adorn you, and open to you the kingdom of thought and all the boundless regions of conception. Therefore, if any young man has embarked his life in the pursuit of Knowledge, let him go on without doubting the result. Let him not be daunted by her cheerless beginnings, or by the difficulties hovering round her. Let him rather follow her as the angel that guards him, and the genius of his life. She will bring him out at last into the light of day, and exhibit him to the world comprehensive in argument, strong in reasoning, paramount above his fellows in all th

relations and offices of life.' It is one of the proudest distinctions of the great Transatlantic Republic that the custom of giving away money by rich citizens during their lifetime—and nothing is harder for most men to part with, except prejudice—is more common among the Americans than among any other people, and that the favourite direction of their munificence is toward the founding of colleges and libraries. What a list of American benefactors of this kind might we make out! The Astor and Lenox Libraries and Cooper Institute, in New York City; the Cornell University in New York State; the M'Cormick University in Virginia; the Lick Observatory and Stamford University in California; the countless public libraries of New England; the Vanderbilt University in Tennessee—these are but a tithe of the institutions which owe their origin wholly to the bounty of a single individual or partially to contributions from what, in the chapels of Oxford and Cambridge, are called 'pious benefactors.' To set against them, England has but a few private individuals—such as Sir William Brown, of Liverpool, and Sir Josiah Mason, of Birmingham—worthy to be mentioned in the same breath with Cornells, Licks, and Stamfords of the New World; and we have but to hunt out the word 'Libraries' in Poole's 'Index of Periodical Literature,' published at Boston, Massachusetts, to discern the amazing superiority of Americans in public spirit as compared with the citizens of any other nation.

“ These thoughts come powerfully home to the minds of those who read the scholarly oration delivered by

Mr. James Russell Lowell, not many days since, upon the opening of a new Public Library at Chelsea in Massachusetts. Chelsea is a little town, lying about eleven miles to the north of Boston, with a population of about twenty-three thousand souls, which has just profited by the generosity of one of her sons, Mr. Eustace C. Fitz, who gave a handsome building to the little city in which his life has been passed. In order to dedicate this building to the purpose of a Free Library the inestimably valuable services of Mr. Lowell were invoked. There is no public speaker, no scholar, no thinker, no statesman more capable of doing justice to such an occasion than the gentleman who lately filled the position of American Minister in this country, and, perhaps, did more to bind the kingly commonwealth of Great Britain and the mighty Republic sprung from her loins closely together than all his diplomatic predecessors from John Adams downwards. In making the presentation of the building to the city of Chelsea, Mr. Eustace C. Fitz inaugurated the proceedings by saying: 'Our Free Library, though an honourable institution, is not an ancient one, as it was thrown open to the public in 1870. None of our books and none of our trustees came over in the *Mayflower*, though the spirit which animated the passengers of that heavily-laden vessel must have animated the earlier friends of this enterprise, who struggled on until the Free Public Library at Chelsea became an accomplished fact. Some time ago it was sarcastically remarked that our Library possessed every requisition except books and a building, This last-named want no longer exists. The new home

now provided for books is well situated, well warmed, and well lighted ; so let us hope that private liberality and wise municipal assistance will load its shelves with useful works.' No one who is well acquainted with American citizens can doubt that this aspiration will soon be realized. After the speech delivered by Mr. Lowell, the inhabitants of Chelsea are little likely to leave the building just presented to them devoid of books. To read Mr. Lowell's cultured and ornate phrases is in itself what Sir Richard Steele called 'a liberal education ;' and the speech reminds us, not for the first time, that in comprehensive knowledge of the literature of all countries, the Minister lately accredited by the United States to the Court of St. James's has no living superior, if, indeed, he has any equal. Mr. Lowell's address, extending over forty minutes, 'was listened to,' we hear, 'with rapt attention, and at various points the audience greeted his remarks with laughter and applause, followed by loud acclamations when he resumed his seat.' He told his hearers that in no way can a man build so lasting a monument to himself as by founding a Public Library, upon which he may confidently allow 'Resurgam' to be carved ; for, although the Pyramids may forget their builders, 'memorials such as this have longer memories.'

"Mr. Lowell began by adverting to 'The Book-lover's Enchiridion,' published not many years since by an American citizen, Mr. Alexander Ireland, which is made up of extracts from the writings of many distinguished men, ancient and modern, in praise of books. 'It was a chorus,' remarked the eloquent speaker,

‘of many voices in many tongues, a hymn of gratitude and praise, full of such piety and fervour as can be paralleled only in songs dedicated to the Supreme Power and Wisdom.’ Putting aside the temptation which Southey—the only Englishman with the exception of Macaulay that ever equalled Mr. Lowell in universal knowledge of literature—would, perhaps, not have resisted, of quoting from the strongest of this weighty cloud of witnesses, the orator of the occasion felt himself constrained to set before his hearers ‘such poor thoughts as passed through his own mind.’ He pointed out that the founders of New England, if often an impracticable, were always a practical people, whose first care was to encourage the manufacture of bullets, and their second to provide that good learning should not perish from among them. To this end they established first the Latin School at Boston, and secondly the College at Cambridge, based upon John Harvard’s bequest in money. In addition, Harvard left his library to Cambridge College—an inconsiderable collection of books, doubtless, as measured by the standard of to-day, but very considerable then as the possession of a private individual. ‘It was, in my judgment, these two foundations which gave its bent to the character of New England and to Boston—that literary supremacy which I am told that she is in danger of losing, but will not lose until she and all the world lose Oliver Wendell Holmes.’ We fancy that, so long as Lowell, Holmes, and Whittier survive, and the grave has scarcely closed upon Emerson, Longfellow, and Hawthorne, Boston will have little

to fear from her bustling and ambitious young rival Chicago, from whom it is commonly supposed that the most formidable danger to the literary supremacy of the older city will come. Among the many wise things propounded by Mr. Lowell at Chelsea, the most sensible, in our opinion, was his suggestion that a Public Library should have plenty of biography. Example, he added, is never so poignant, whether for emulation or avoidance, as when enforced by a striking personality. 'Autobiographies are also instructive reading to the student of human nature, although often written by men more interesting to themselves than to their fellows. I have been told that Emerson and George Eliot agreed in thinking Rousseau's "Confessions" the most fascinating book they had ever read.' Equally significant was Mr. Lowell's counsel that a Public Library should abound in translations of the best books in every language, and that novel-reading is full of advantage and relaxation even to the sagest minds. 'No, no,' he exclaimed, 'banish "The Antiquary," banish "Leatherstocking," and you will banish all the world. Let us not set about to make the world duller than it is!' It is impossible to read Mr. Lowell's stirring discourse without envying Chelsea its possession of such a lecturer. Rumour alleges that it is his intention shortly to return to this country and again to take up his abode amongst us. A few speeches such as that he has just delivered may haply inspire the Cornells and Stamfords of England to found libraries in our towns which will preserve their memories far longer than the bequest of millions of pounds to descendants who know not how to spend them."



CHAPTER XVII.

FREE LIBRARIES IN AUSTRALASIA.

Australasian Colonies show us a worthy example in the matter of Free Libraries. As the author has not yet visited Australia, we cannot do better than quote portion of a paper read before the Librarians' Association during last year, by Mr. Boosé, a colonist who has had some experience in connection with Free

Libraries at the Antipodes:—

“In dealing first with the Colony of Victoria, although not the oldest, the Melbourne Public Library stands out prominently as the largest and most important Library in Australasia. A piece of land having been dedicated to the public as a site for the building, containing nearly two acres, the foundation stone

was laid on July 3rd, 1854, by His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham. During the first fifteen years of its existence, the management was conducted by five trustees (one of whom, the late Sir Redmond Barry, read a paper before this Association in 1877 on the Public Libraries of the Colony), during which time its progress was only made known by occasional addresses to the various Governors. This happened first when His Excellency Major General McArthur, Acting Governor of the Colony, opened the Library on February 11th, 1856. In an address then presented, the trustees stated that in the year 1853, when the necessity for making provision to meet the literary wants of the community had forced itself upon Her Majesty's Government and the Legislature, the sums of £3,000 for the purchase of books, and £10,000 in aid of the erection of a suitable building, were voted by the Legislative Council; and in the following year like amounts were placed on the estimates for similar purposes and were cheerfully voted. On the occasion of the opening of the Library it contained only 3,846 volumes, and the hours of admission were from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but through the energy of the governing body the sum of £2,500 was forwarded to England for the purchase of books, and in many ways additions were made to the scanty stock of literature then contained in the Library. Amongst other means, the trustees requested the public, by a series of advertisements, to favour them with catalogues and lists of such works as might be considered requisite. The following extract from the first report of the trustees shows the

difficulties experienced in getting together a good collection of works. They wrote to several gentlemen, 'members of this community' (that is of Victoria), then in Europe, with the hope of enlisting their co-operation in London and elsewhere in the selection of the books ordered, and in obtaining by gift or purchase from the British Museum, the Libraries of the Universities or Colleges, or from other public or private Societies, copies of any works of value. They, moreover, addressed a letter to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, forwarded by His Excellency Mr. Latrobe, informing him of the establishment and nature of the institution; of the necessity for procuring many works of approved merit, which the means at their disposal would not allow them to order; and suggesting that such as the statutes at large, the statutes of the realm, the various records, state papers, voyages, travels, surveys, maps, charts, plans, and reports published by the various Royal and Parliamentary Societies and Commissions, or by the Admiralty, &c., might be supplied.

"The reply to this appeal from the Governor of the Colony was not encouraging, as is shown by the following statement of the trustees:—

" 'It is with no slight regret that the trustees are compelled to say that their advertisements were disregarded, the letters, with one exception—a refusal—unacknowledged, and that His Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies informed them "that he was unable to furnish any books unless payment were made for the same by the Colonial Government." ' "

“Although meeting with disappointment from every source, the trustees were by no means discouraged, but felt assured of the importance of so useful an institution, and looked forward with sanguine expectation to the future. They have been amply rewarded by the steady increase in the value of the institution, and by its recognized importance at the present time, not only in the Colony but throughout Australasia.

“The number of visitors during the broken period of the first year of its existence was 23,769; but, as evidence of the want of such an institution, this number was more than doubled during the succeeding year; the number of visitors reaching the total of 49,226. A desire was, during 1857, expressed for extending the hours of admission, and taking into consideration that a vast number of persons were engaged during the day, and were therefore prohibited from using the Library until after four o'clock, the hours were extended to 9 p.m. This caused a considerable increase in the number of visitors, the figures showing a total for that year of 77,925. In the following year the hours were again extended from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m., and have remained so to the present time. During 1858 the Legislature placed the sum of £20,000 at the disposal of the trustees, to enable them to enlarge the building. In 1859 great progress had been made. A great number of books were purchased, and great care was taken by the trustees in the selection of the various works, it being governed by strict attention to principle, which would secure the standard publications in the different departments of history and literature. The

number of books upon the shelves at this date was 13,214.

“It was during this year that the various mechanics’ and other similar institutions throughout the Colony were brought into connection with the Melbourne Public Library, a certain number of duplicate copies of books being despatched from time to time, so that some of the benefits of the Library might be enjoyed by those resident in the country towns.

“In the year 1861 the collection of books upon the shelves had been more than doubled, numbering 27,240, whilst the number of readers had increased in a larger proportion, and in the words of the then Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly, ‘the Library contained a collection of books rivalling in number and in value those of many long-established provincial Libraries in Europe.’

“The first printed catalogue of the books was published in 1862, being compiled by Mr. Tulk, the first librarian; but, owing to the rapid strides which the Library continued to make, the first supplement had to be compiled three years later; the number of volumes at that time, viz., 1865, reaching the total of 36,000, or an increase of 10,000 in the three years.

“The Government continued to generously support this national institution; votes taken in 1863 and 1864 having supplied the sum of £11,880. Many additions were made to the building, including a new reading-room, 90 feet long, which afforded the much desired increased accommodation. In this, and in its galleries, arrangements were carried out for the systematic dis-

tribution of books, and the building was capable of containing 60,000 volumes, and of accommodating at the same time 600 readers.

“ Since the first appeal of the trustees for donations to the Library, ten years previous to this date, which remained unanswered, it is interesting to note that donations were received in 1865 from, among many others, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, the King of Denmark, the King of Italy, the University of Copenhagen, the British Government, and the Board of Trade and Education. The trustees of the British Museum presented all the books issued by their authority, together with a facsimile of the Old Testament from the Alexandrine Codex, six volumes folio—using the words of the trustees—‘ a noble present, suggested by the courteous attention of the librarian, Mr. Panizzi ’; and Lord Russell was pleased to allow Mr. Hertslet, of the Foreign Office, to collect for presentation a selection of papers not usually procurable except through such influence. Thus it will be seen that the importance of the Melbourne Public Library was being generally recognized in all parts of the civilized world.

“ There were in Melbourne at this time three other Libraries, viz., the Parliamentary Library, the University Library, and that of the Supreme Court. I make reference to these chiefly because the efforts of the trustees of the Public Library were directed to make that Library supplementary to the others, and thus avoid the needless multiplication of copies of the same works. In the trustees’ report for 1865 it is

stated they procured at first the leading authorities only on the especial branches of learning provided for in those Libraries—the common sources of reference for readers of all classes, without which no library could be complete. They then filled in on a liberal scale all the books most approved of in the higher walks of professional, scientific, and technical branches of employment, and provided largely all which bear on discoveries in physical science and the practical arts, and which help to unfold the natural and artificial resources of the country. These primary wants having received the earliest and amplest consideration, the trustees were enabled to diverge into other directions to fill up the interspaces, and so to balance the supply by appropriating in succeeding or alternate years certain sums—greater or less—to make good the deficiencies in the respective departments; to regulate the expansion and to enlarge the sub-divisions, so as to leave no class of literature wholly unrepresented.

“The result was that when the contents of the four Libraries were about 110,000 volumes in the aggregate, the number of copies of books by the same authors repeated in the different Libraries did not exceed 15,000. This, as will readily be understood, not only saved unnecessary expense, but allowed of funds to be expended in the purchase of additional books, and by that means to increase the general value of the Public Library. Admission was also granted to either of the above-named Libraries on production of a letter signed by the Librarian of the National Library.

“It is quite unnecessary to follow the progress year

by year of this Library, so I will continue its history by giving only the subjects of chief importance. So steady and rapid had been the growth of the institution, that it became necessary to relieve the original trustees of the oppressive burden of the administration. In the year 1869 an Act was introduced into Parliament, by which the Library was incorporated. During the same year the Copyright Act was passed, according to the Melbourne Public Library privileges similar to those enjoyed by the British Museum, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and other institutions, viz., that within two calendar months after the day on which any book shall be first sold, published, or offered for sale within the Colony of Victoria, it shall be delivered, by or on behalf of the publisher thereof, at the Public Library, Melbourne.

“Passing now over the next ten years—viz., to 1879—there was an immense increase, not only in the number of books to be found in the Library, but also in the number of readers taking advantage of its great usefulness, as the following figures will show:—

Books (including pamphlets)	108,000
Number of readers	266,839

“It may be interesting to state that the total amount of money voted by the Legislature for the purchase of books up to this date reached the sum of £73,000, and that the total number of visitors since the opening of the Library—viz., during twenty-four years—was 4,473,927.

“A most voluminous and important catalogue of the

contents of the Library, prepared under the supervision of Mr. Sheffield, the librarian, was published during the following year, 1880. It consisted of about 2,000 pages, contained in two bulky volumes. In referring to this catalogue the trustees reported as follows:—‘The catalogue is now presented to the public. Embracing a large proportion of the whole field of literature, ancient and modern, in its several divisions—comprising, more or less amply, works of the most eminent authors in each branch—including all the leading authorities of modern times on scientific subjects, on those relating to material industries, to mechanical and other pursuits; those connected with the moral, social, learned, instructive, and interesting forms of intellectual development which occupy the anxious attention of all civilized communities of the present day, the catalogue shows that a collection of books has within the comparatively brief period of a quarter of a century been assembled in a building worthy of the country, and of the sacred cause of literature, science, and art.’

“Two years elapsed, and then the demand for additional space pressed itself upon the Library committee. It was, therefore, resolved to ask for a vote for additional buildings, and ‘a deputation was appointed to present the estimates to the Chief Secretary in person, and to point out to him the difficulty under which the trustees laboured in fulfilling their trust, in the absence of adequate accommodation for the several sections of the Institution.’

“The deputation waited upon the Chief Secretary, who promised to bring the request of the trustees before

the Treasurer, with a strong recommendation that, if the state of the finances permitted, it should be granted. In reply to this application, Sir Bryan O'Loghlen consented to place £4,000 on the estimates for 1882-83, and promised a further sum of £8,000 for 1883-84 should he have the preparation of the estimates for that year; but, owing to the delay in passing the estimates for 1882-83, the sum of £4,000 lapsed, and a sum of £6,000 was placed on the estimates for 1883-84, and was voted by Parliament, and the work of enlarging the building was proceeded with at a cost of £21,485.

“During the year 1882, 3,250 volumes, 11,957 pamphlets and parts, 238 maps, and 19,234 newspapers were added to the Library.

“The Library Committee had continually under their consideration the desirability of establishing a Town Lending Branch in connection with the Melbourne Public Library on a plan similar to that of the lending departments of the Leeds, Liverpool, and Birmingham Free Libraries, as it was felt that the very useful function discharged by the above-mentioned Public Libraries, and by several of the Continental Libraries, was unfulfilled by the Melbourne Public Library, but, owing to the want of funds (the establishment of a Town Lending Branch, together with its working, being estimated to cost £1,100 annually) they felt that they were precluded from giving practical effect to the project at that time. I am glad, however, to state that the question has not been lost sight of

but is engaging the attention of the Committee at the present time.

“The total number of volumes and pamphlets in the Library at the close of 1882 amounted to 96,735 and 26,298 respectively, and in 1883 the number of volumes had increased to 100,430, and pamphlets 42,643, and it was visited by no fewer than 299,164 visitors, thus clearly showing that its usefulness was greater than ever it had been, and that its benefits were much appreciated by the residents of Victoria.

“An important matter in connection with the national importance of the Library, was brought before the Government during the year 1883—viz., the question of the distribution of the Government publications—the trustees of the Public Library expressing their desire to become the medium of distribution of such presents in the name, and on behalf of, the Government—being prepared to carry out the wishes of the Government and of the heads of departments. They referred as an authority to the ‘History of the Smithsonian Exchanges,’ a work setting forth how the system of exchanges was established, and how the Library of the Smithsonian Institution had been enriched through undertaking the distribution of the publications of the Government of the United States, and what it has received in exchange for them. ‘We ask the Government to give up nothing but a burden, to send through one centre, and to let that centre be the Public Library’—such were the words of the trustees. The Government have recently adopted the suggestion, and at the present time the Melbourne Public Library is the one

centre from which all Government publications are issued.

“In concluding the account of this Library, which has made such rapid strides during only a short existence, I will only supplement the foregoing particulars by bringing its history up to the latest date, and by just touching upon the other public libraries which are to be met with in most of the towns of the Colony, and I will quote from the ‘Victorian Handbook’ compiled by Mr. Hayter, for the latest information. The buildings of the Melbourne Public Library have cost from first to last £111,604, and are still unfinished. These funds were provided by Government, as also were further monies, amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £361,611, of which £17,522 was received by the trustees during the year 1883. The private contributions, consisting of books, pamphlets, maps, newspapers, &c., have amounted in all to 213,715, of which 116,102 were presented to the institution, and the remainder were deposited under the Copyright Statute. The estimated value of these contributions is £16,514. The total number of volumes in the Library at the end of 1883 was 143,073, exclusive of pamphlets.

“The number of volumes circulated in the interior from 1861 to 1882 reached the total of 72,054.

“There is also a Public Library in connection with the Patent Office attached to the Registrar General’s Office ; this contains about 3,000 volumes, consisting of the patent records of Great Britain, Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, &c.,

and other works. The approximate value of the books is £4,000.

“ The Supreme Court Library also has a most complete stock of legal works, and has branches in the ten assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession, and is supported by fees paid under rules of Court for the admission of barristers and attorneys. The number of volumes at the end of 1883 was 14,707, and the expenditure from its establishment has amounted to £18,794. This library, as I have previously stated, is open to the public on presentation of an order from the Librarian of the Public Library.

“ Now with regard to the Country Libraries, although many are accumulating valuable and large collections of books, time will not permit me to single out any one for special mention, so in referring to them collectively it is only necessary to add that there are Free Libraries in most of the towns of the Colony. Some of them receive books on loan from the Melbourne Public Library. Two hundred and twenty-nine furnished returns for 1883 to the Government Statist. Their statements show that their total receipts in the year amounted to £34,739, of which £9,525 was contributed by Government, and £29,214 by private individuals. The number of volumes in all the institutions amount to 317,295, and during the year about 2,000,000 visits were paid to 147 of them which kept attendance books. It is estimated that if visitors attended the remaining libraries in the same proportion, the total number of visits during 1883 must have amounted to more than 3,100,000, whilst the

population of Victoria only numbers, according to the latest statistics, 931,790, thus showing an average number of visits per head of the population of more than three for one year only."

It would be rather too Utopian to suggest the adoption in this country of the method of book-lending which has long been in successful operation in the colony of Victoria. Thus, under the enlightened management of the late Sir Redmond Barry, the duplicates of the Melbourne Public Library are placed in cases of oak, bound with brass clips, lined with green baize, and divided by shelves. Each case contains about fifty volumes, and is transmitted free of cost by railway or steamer to any Public Library, Mechanics' Institution, Athenæum, or corporate body which applies for a loan. When a series of lectures on any subject are about to be given in some remote part of the colony, a box of suitable books bearing on the subject will be made up at Melbourne upon application. The volumes may be retained for three months or more. The number of volumes thus circulated in 1876-1877 was 8,000, and by the multiplication of utility, they were rendered equivalent to 32,000 volumes, in seventy-two towns an aggregate population of 440,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The next Public Library of chief importance in Australia is the Sydney Free Public Library. It was established somewhat later than that of Melbourne, and has not made such progress as that of the sister colony.

Parliamentary provision was made by the Legislature of New South Wales in the year 1862, for the foundation of the Sydney Public Library, when the sum of £25,000 was voted for the purpose. It was not until 1869, however, that the institution was formally opened by His Excellency the Earl of Belmore, then Governor of the Colony. During that year the Australian Library and Literary Institution offered their collection of books to the Government, which consisted of about 16,000 volumes, and was purchased for the sum of £1,500, thus forming the nucleus of the present Sydney Free Public Library. At the same time the Australian Library building was leased by the Government for one year, at a rental of £300, with the option of purchase within the year for £3,600. The negotiations having been concluded, the Public Library was opened on the 30th September, 1867.

The attendance of visitors to the close of 1871 was for

1869 (three months)	17,006
1870	59,786
1871	60,165

showing a daily average of 202 persons.

After withdrawing various works from those purchased from the Australian Library, to the number of 2,120, the ascertained number of books at the opening of the Public Library was 13,937, which had increased to 20,836 at the end of 1871.

During the latter year a system of friendly exchanges was commenced with the Melbourne Public Library.

The library had now been established five years, and the work of checking the number of books and ascertaining their condition was undertaken; the result of the enumeration was the loss of two small volumes, amounting in value to 1s. 3d. So satisfactory a result was, no doubt, owing to the excellent system of record and check adopted by the librarian, and to the great judgment and zeal that officer had bestowed upon the institution ever since its commencement. Passing now to the year 1877, the number of books had increased to 32,753, and the library was visited by 113,760 persons; 1,225 persons obtained tickets for the lending branch, and 10,968 volumes were issued. A full catalogue was published during the year, and consisted of a 4to volume of 1,008 pages, and contained all the books placed in the library from its foundation up to the 31st December, 1876.

Although the progress of the library was not so rapid as that of Melbourne, still the trustees looked forward with confidence to great success attending the institution when a larger building, and one better suited to the purposes of study, should supersede the one then in use.

In concluding this brief account of the Public Library of New South Wales, which is next in importance to that of Melbourne, and far surpasses many in the mother country, the following extract from the excellent handbook of Messrs. Gordon and Gotch shows its present state, which can only prove of what value it is as one of the institutions of the colony which promotes the better education of the people, and

provides intellectual amusement for all classes of the community.

“The Public Library had on January 1st, 1884, 59,554 volumes in various departments of literature. During 1883 the institution was open on 357 days for the Reference Library, 346 days for the lending branch ; and was visited by 155,431 persons. On week days the average number of volumes used was—Reference Library, 614 ; lending branch, 243 ; on Sundays the figures respectively were 167 and 42.”

The lending branch, which I have previously referred to, had a total of 18,188 volumes.

There is urgent need at the present time of more space, and the sum of £175,000 has been voted for new buildings. A suitable site has been secured in the heart of the city, where a handsome building is being erected, in every way suited to the wants of an institution which assists individual study and intellectual recreation.

In the country districts are 81 Mechanics' Institutes, or Public Libraries. These libraries are supplied by the Sydney Public Library with cases of books monthly. The books selected for the purpose are of a high class of literature, and, as such, are beyond the means of small libraries with small incomes to procure for general reading. Time does not allow me to give the details of any but those libraries in the chief cities ; but on a future occasion, no doubt, the progress of the libraries of each colony would form subjects for valuable papers for submission to this Association.

Owing to the satisfactory conditions of the libraries

of the colony there is no reason to doubt that the necessity for widening the influence and enlarging the usefulness of them will be regarded by the colonists of New South Wales as a great national concern.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The system of Public Libraries in South Australia is quite of recent date, the Public Library Act having come into operation only as recently as July 1st, 1884; but it may, nevertheless, be of interest to trace the establishment of that which provided for the literary wants of the population, in the absence of a recognized public institution; and I feel sure the early history of the first institution of the kind cannot fail to prove of general interest.

The establishment of South Australia took place on August 15th, 1834, and exactly a fortnight afterwards the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association was founded in London. The specified objects of the Association were "the cultivation and diffusion of useful knowledge throughout the colony." The Association selected for transmission to the colony a library of 117 volumes, most of which treated upon the Australian, Polynesian, and American colonies, or related to statistics of Great Britain. It is also of interest to find that these books were packed in the iron chest which contained the charter or constitution of the newly-made colony.

The Act provided for the establishment of a library, partly public, partly subscription. The management

was to consist of a board of six governors, of whom three were to be appointed by the governor, and the other three were to be elected by the societies incorporated with the Institute, the subscribers to the library being regarded as an incorporated body.

The present building was completed and fully occupied in the early part of 1861, but no long time elapsed before the board foresaw a necessity for increased accommodation; and in their report for 1863-1864 they referred to it as a matter which would have to be seriously considered without delay. In January, 1865, they first addressed the Government on the subject, and they succeeded so far that a sketch plan for an enlargement of the building was prepared by the Government architect, and laid before the House of Assembly in 1866, and the sum of £1,000 was voted on the Estimates for 1867, as the first instalment of a vote for the proposed enlargement; the intention then being that detailed plans should be prepared, so that Parliament might be asked to make suitable provision for the work on the Estimates for 1868. The Government, however, were unable to do so, and instead of receiving the expected grant, the board had to submit to a reduction of their grant for annual expenses. In 1871, petitions, signed by nearly 4,000 persons, in favour of an enlargement of the building, were presented to both Houses of Parliament, and motions in favour of such a course were passed. During 1872 a vote of £3,000 was passed as a first instalment towards the cost of a new building. Nothing further (with the exception of laying a foundation stone in 1873, which

was taken up in 1876) was done until 1877, when the board had finally decided, as far as they were concerned, for all matters of detail connected with the buildings. In 1878 the building was commenced, but during these protracted delays the difficulty of providing accommodation for the Circulating and Free Reference Libraries, which had been established in connection with the library, was increasingly felt, so that the Government were requested and consented to erect a temporary book-room at the back of the existing building. In 1878 the number of books had increased to 22,501, a very slow increase, compared with the neighbouring colonies of Victoria and New South Wales.

In 1879 the foundation stone of the present Public Library Buildings was laid by His Excellency Sir W. Jervois, and the erection and fitting-up of the west wing of the building is now completed.

In 1880 the number of books in the library reached the total of 24,113.

As in the case of New South Wales, a prominent feature during this year was a resolution to pay special attention to collecting books on or connected with Australia. This unquestionably should form a prominent feature in all Public Libraries in Australasia, in the same manner as the Plymouth and other Public Libraries are making collections of all works relating to their respective counties. I may here state that the number of volumes issued during 1880-1881 was 63,725, as compared with 57,279 in 1879-1880.

Referring now to the present state of this library, the latest available statistics show that the total number

of books on the 30th June, 1884, amounted to 27,015 and the number of volumes circulated during the year was 67,031.

A few words now with reference to the Country Libraries of South Australia. The work done for these libraries has always formed an important part of the duties of the Board of the parent institution, the increase in the number and size of these valuable educational agencies having been both steady and rapid. Although the statistics of the Country Institutes have been published annually, it will perhaps be quite sufficient to show the rapid development of the Public Library movement, if I state that in 1859 there were twenty institutes connected with the Adelaide Institution; and in 1883 this number had risen to 113 institutes.

A special feature of the South Australian Institute has always been the regular circulation of book-boxes among the Country Institutes; and whilst in 1859 only 8 boxes were circulated amongst the twenty institutes then affiliated, 157 boxes, containing 4,825 volumes, were circulated during 1883, amongst 116 institutes. It will thus be seen how extensively the importance of the connection with the parent institution had been recognized.

In concluding their final report to the governor of the colony, the trustees of the South Australian Institute wrote as follows: "Like all human experiences, the Institute has had in it much of doubt, anxiety, and disappointment; but it cannot be denied that the South Australian Institute has done good work in its day, and has been instrumental in scattering the seeds of

intellectual cultivation and development far and wide over the colony. The Board now hand over their trust to their successors, with the earnest hope and full confidence that in the future, with a higher prestige and larger means, they will realize to the utmost the ends for which the South Australian Institute was established in 1856.

QUEENSLAND.

In Queensland, the youngest of the Australian colonies, there is no Free Library ; but there are throughout the colony thirty-four institutions in the different towns under the title of Schools of Art, Mechanics' Institutes, Miners' Institutes, and Public Reading-rooms, most of which have libraries, more or less valuable. The Brisbane School of Arts is an important scholastic institution, and possesses a valuable library. Throughout the colony, however, the want of public institutions is much felt ; and there is no doubt that, combined with the rapid progress being made in all departments of education, the question of Public Libraries will claim the earnest attention of the Government. In the existing libraries there are at present 50,000 volumes.

TASMANIA.

The Tasmanian Public Library was incorporated on the 14th October, 1870, being entirely free to the public, and being supported by the municipal authorities. It has continued to make satisfactory progress since its foundation, the trustees stating in their first report that their anticipations as to the due appreciation by

the citizens and visitors of the advantages presented by the institution had been more than realized, no less than 25,675 persons having visited the library. In order to increase the value of this still young institution, the trustees, at its foundation, entered into communication with the various literary and scientific bodies in Europe and elsewhere, with a view to the enrichment of the library, and met with great success; the application being responded to most cordially, and many donations being received.

Previous to the date above-mentioned there existed a library, which was supported partly by a Government grant and partly by subscription. This was founded in the year 1849, by Sir William Denison, the Governor of the Colony, who placed a sum of £100 on the estimates for that year. The library was increased by 1,900 volumes in 1851, by the purchase of the library of Mr. Bichem, the Colonial Secretary. In 1854 the annual grant was increased to £200 by the Legislature, and five years later the grant was fixed at £200, and £200 more on condition that an equal sum was raised by subscription, and the library thrown open to the public. In 1866, however, a time of depression for the colony, the Government grant ceased altogether; and so, with the loss of its income, the library ceased to exist. Out of this first attempt to found a national institution sprang the present Public Library, the books contained in the first library having been stowed away, and so formed the nucleus of the existing institution—which, as previously mentioned, was opened free to the public in 1870.

The trustees, consisting of eight (four appointed by the Governor in Council, and four by the City Corporation), annually report to the Government.

The library is open to the public on all days of the year, from 10 a.m. till 9.30 p.m., except on Sundays, when it is open from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m.

The number of volumes at present contained in the library is 10,000, and in addition to the very valuable collection of works of reference and general literature, the majority of the English magazines and newspapers are also to be found on the table of the reading-room.

There are also, in addition to the Public Library of Hobart, 30 similar institutions distributed throughout the colony, containing 40,000 volumes. The Government grant to these institutions for last year amounted to £200 for the Hobart Library, and £700 for the country libraries.

Steady progress is being made throughout the colony in promoting the establishment of Public Libraries upon an extensive scale, to which all classes may have free access in the principal centres of population.

NEW ZEALAND.

In New Zealand there are only five Free Public Libraries. These have only been established recently, and at present contain about 30,000 volumes; but in almost every town throughout the Colony is to be found a Mechanics' Institute or similar institution for the benefit of the inhabitants. By the most recent returns

there were 225 such institutions, which furnished returns to the Registrar-General.

The following statistics will show the number of institutions at present existing in each province of the Colony, and also the number of volumes in their libraries:—

	No. of Institutions.				No. of Vols.	
Auckland	60	..	38,638			
Taranki	5	..	1,960			
Wellington	12	..	17,385			
Hawkes Bay	13	..	6,973			
Marlborough	5	..	3,531			
Nelson	19	..	17,647			
Westland	8	..	4,244			
Canterbury	47	..	51,836			
Otago	56	..	56,303			

The Public Library of Auckland is the largest of its kind in the colony, possessing, as it now does, over 10,000 volumes. Sir George Grey, who has always evinced the greatest interest in the Public Library question, has presented a valuable collection of books and manuscripts to the above-named library.

In Canterbury and Dunedin are Free Public Libraries of great importance, but still in their infancy. With the rapid growth of these busy cities, the urgent need of large and commodious Public Libraries is now becoming more and more apparent.



CHAPTER XVIII.

MUSEUMS IN CONNECTION WITH FREE LIBRARIES.

1. WILLIAM EWART, in his struggles to win the battle of the Public Libraries Bill 1848-50, little thought probably to what in some towns these institutions would grow.

Liverpool, Birmingham, and Derby have each museums attached to their Free Libraries, which would in two of these cases at least give reason to be proud of them as national museums, and being raised almost exclusively by local effort, there is all the more credit attaching to these towns for the enterprise and public spirit they have displayed.

There is an even wider scope, however, in these museums than has even yet been grasped by the towns

named, and the same applies to other manufacturing centres. We refer to trade museums.

England's position as the leading commercial country in the world is unquestioned at the present time; but with the aid of English-made machinery, and, in some cases, English labour, America, Germany, France, and Switzerland are running us very close in most of the leading markets of the world. English manufacturers must be fully alive to the necessities of every foreign market for which they cater. Manufactured goods which suit for South America do not suit for Australia, and there has for some time been too much of the happy-go-lucky about the style and shape of certain goods for some foreign markets, the prevailing idea being that what is suitable for one market will be suitable for all. A greater mistake could not possibly be made, and in order that employers and employes may themselves see the patterns required in other markets, no place presents so suitable and convenient a depository as the museum of a Free Library. The town which takes up this subject vigorously will be the town which against all comers will hold its own ground. Manchester should have its museum of cotton goods, Leeds and Bradford their museums of woollens, Sheffield of tools and cutlery, Nottingham of laces and muslins, Bristol of boots and shoes and other goods, and Liverpool and Glasgow of almost every commodity in which for foreign markets the patterns differ.

This subject is one of vital importance, not only to every manufacturing centre, but to the entire country, and we earnestly commend it to the attention of Free

Library committees. Objects of local antiquarian interest, coins, bronzes, pottery, &c., are all good and interesting, but a most necessary feature of museums is that to which we are now referring.

This is not the place to refer at length to the report of the Royal Commission on technical education, but those gentlemen on this Commission who visited the Continent for the purpose of seeing the methods there, found to their astonishment established museums of patterns as well as an admirable system of technical education. One of the gentlemen on this Commission, Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., has done most valuable service in bringing this matter before the notice of the Staffordshire potters and the manufacturers and operatives of other districts. In a speech recently delivered he says:—"One other thing he should like to speak of, and that was as to the value of museums and exhibitions of different kinds. They all learnt, he hoped, to value their picture galleries, and their collections of works of fine art; and they were enforcing upon Parliament the extreme importance of making all their national collections of that kind available for circulation throughout the provinces. But he did not know anything at all comparable to what were called the industrial museums on the Continent. Almost everywhere, where a particular trade or manufactory prevailed, there had been formed for easy consultation a collection of examples of that particular kind of manufacture prevailing in that district, admirably arranged with regard to date, with regard to different countries, and so on. To imagine that, then, they must suppose they would have here, in

Hanley, a large collection of pottery arranged in order of date, consisting of every kind of English manufacture, of every kind of French, of Dresden, and of Italian makers. These would be all placed in such a way that, without difficulty, their designers and manufacturers could come continually to them for the purpose of consultation and inspiration. Perhaps when the English people realized the actual value of these things they would have them.

“He was satisfied that unless they in this country did come to realize the importance of this teaching, and until they got the whole masses of the people impressed with the actual practical value of it, they would be wanting in the sacrifice which went to make it complete. The school at Limoges, which within the last three years had been taken over by the State, had attached to it one of the most remarkable pottery museums he supposed that existed in the world, formed by the town, and established and helped by the munificent bequests of a prosperous townsman, who wisely thought that he could not do a better service to the town to which he belonged than leave it a valuable museum.”

This presents a truly serious problem for us as a manufacturing nation, and unless it is solved practically by a removal of the present blank in this respect, being filled by cases of exhibits representing the commodities used in foreign markets and accessible to all concerned, our commercial supremacy will be a thing of the past.

The Museum of Technical Fabrics at Mulhouse contains a complete series of patterns used in calico printing from the commencement of the trade in Alsace, in

1746, up to the present year. There is a permanent exhibition of historical specimens of ancient textiles in cotton, silk, and wool. The new patterns for each year are fixed up and labelled with the names of the producers, whether they be in France, Germany, England, or elsewhere. These designs are, in due course, removed in order to make way for newer ones, the older ones being mounted in books and catalogued. Those ranging from the year 1829 to the year 1858, which are considered worthy of being preserved, fill up no less than 389 large volumes. The leading manufacturers are convinced of the beneficial influence of this museum upon the principal industry of the district. Some, indeed, went so far as to say that they could not see how the trade could prosper without it. It is, they think, a source of inspiration to the designer; it sharpens the wits of the manufacturer, is a constant register of the relative progress of competing countries, and gives individuals assistance in suggesting the adoption of old or historical styles to current wants.

The main idea just now in imparting technical instruction in England seems to be through the giving of *lectures*. We certainly are not disposed to undervalue these. But it is not from the black-coated professor that extended knowledge is to be gained and fresh fields struck out in actual manufactures, for he can only speak of the facts or condition of matters up to that standpoint which exists and is common to the most experienced persons in any given branch: and here he must stop, and his hearers with him.

But the practical manufacturing hand, be he master,

overlooker, foreman, or first-class workman (we will say a weaver), gets a new idea from something he sees in a museum, it may be but a spot or a thread, the way it is put into a loom, and he makes an addition to it, strikes out something afresh, and causes a new departure; and it is the *practical* man, and not the theoretical one, to whom we must look for new inventions, fresh combinations, and general improvements in manufactures.

One of the largest dress buyers in the wholesale trade was saying recently that if such a collection existed in London it would be of the greatest service to him, as he could take a manufacturer there and point out ideas, and what he would like to have done in suggesting new goods. Manufacturers in this country will not, however, be found the first to encourage museums of trade patterns. It is the practice of first-class manufacturers to pay an annual sum for patterns to be sent to them from France by people who make a business of it, and in this way many exclusive designs in textile goods have been originated, and doubtless in the minds of many of these the fear would exist that, in all becoming equally well-informed, such exclusive advantage would be at times lost. We consider this would be a narrow-minded objection, for men would always be found to keep their relative positions under the same conditions, and A continue to be A, and Z remain Z to the end of the chapter; but with this result,—if the plan were adopted, that the standard of manufacturing skill throughout any given district would be considerably raised *pari passu*.

Having referred to special trade museums attached

to Free Libraries, we may refer to the general museums which have already been organized.

The library supplies the wants of the population in its craving for novelty and instruction, but to those engaged in manufactures and commerce, as also, indeed, to the general public, a well-arranged museum must be an exhibition of never-failing interest; to the former, as more immediately concerned in production it is a source of refreshment to examine the works of other times, and to the latter a most important and agreeable education in matters of taste.

Mr. Ruskin has said:—"A museum is, be it first observed, primarily, not at all a place of entertainment, but a place of education; and a museum is, be it secondly observed, not a place of elementary education, but for that of already far-advanced scholars."

The museum at South Kensington is one which reflects great credit upon the nation, and in the diffusion of knowledge in the direction to which we have just been referring it has done incalculable good. From the official Art Directory we extract the following:—

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS AND OBJECTS OF ART.

The museum at South Kensington contains objects collected with a view to illustrate the history, theory, and practical applications of decorative art.

Collections are formed of objects in the Art Museum suitable for exhibition in connection with local schools

of science and art and corporation museums, or in connection with Free Libraries.

Selections from these collections may be made according to the special requirements of any locality. They include the following classes, viz.:—

Division	I.	Marble and Stonework.
„	II.	Mosaics.
„	III.	Carvings in Bone, Ivory, &c.
„	IV.	Woodwork.
„	V.	Metal Work.
„	VI.	Coins and Medals.
„	VII.	Arms and Armour.
„	VIII.	Silversmiths' Work.
„	IX.	Jewellery.
„	X.	Enamels on Metal.
„	XIA.	Earthenware and Stoneware.
„	XIB.	Porcelain.
„	XII.	Glass Vessels.
„	XIII.	Stained Glass.
„	XIV.	Leather Work, including Book Binding.
„	XV.	Textiles.
„	XVI.	Lace.
„	XVII.	Musical Instruments.
„	XVIII.	Decorative Painting.

The following series are mounted in suitable glazed frames for exhibition :—

Photographs.

Furniture.

Architectural Details.

Miniatures.

National Portraits.

Original drawings by various old masters.

Original drawings by Raphael.

Cartoons by Raphael, and studies from the cartoons.

Original drawings by Michael Angelo.

Original sketches by Watteau.

Holbein's portraits from Royal Collection.

Photographs (various) presented by Mr. Henry Vaughan.

Spanish and Portuguese Ecclesiastical Architecture.

Spanish and Portuguese Plate.

Photographs, partly coloured, of decorative art needlework, from Special Loan Exhibition, 1873.

Old London.

Coloured Photographs of various Objects of Art.

Enamels.

Crystals.

Precious materials and earthenware.

Etchings.

Original etchings by members of the Etching Club, and other artists.

Landscape etchings by C. P. Slocombe.

Etchings of Objects in the South Kensington Museum, executed by students of the etching class, under the superintendence of the late Mr. R. J. Lane, A.E.R.A. Parts i., ii., iii., iv., v.

Engravings.

Drawings.

Original drawings for the "Grammar of Ornament."

Examples of students' works.

Drawings by students. "Illustrations of stages of instruction in schools of art."

Oil and Water-colour Paintings.

Oil paintings selected chiefly from the Sheepshanks, Townshend, and Parsons collections.

Historical series of water-colour paintings, from 1710.

Water-colour drawings.

Water-colour drawings of Indian scenery, &c., by W. Simpson.

Drawings in crayon, sepia, Indian ink, &c.

Original drawings made for the publications of the Arundel Society.

Forty-four architectural sketches made in France, Italy, &c., by the late Mr. Godfrey Sykes.

Original designs by E. J. Poynter, R.A.

Designs for decoration of the permanent building, South Kensington Museum.

Illustrations, "History of Lace," by Mrs. Palliser.

"Designs for Lace Making," by Mrs. Hailstone.

Chromolithographs of objects in the South Kensington Museum.

Original drawings of plant form, by F. E. Hulme.

The series is added to from time to time according to the acquisitions made by the Department and the requirements of the school.

Suitable glass cases, for the objects belonging to the art collections which require such protection, are provided by the Department.

Every specimen exhibited in these cases is accompanied by a descriptive label, and all framed matter is similarly labelled. As soon as the contribution of objects has been officially decided upon, information will be sent for insertion in any printed catalogue of the exhibition, on a special application being made for such information.

The conditions under which collections of art objects are circulated to local schools of science and art are as follows :—

a. Adequate provision, to be previously approved by the Department, must be made by the committee of the school for exhibiting the collection, during a limited period, to the students and the public, both in the day-time and the evening.

b. It should be understood that in contributing objects, the Department does not undertake to make an exhibition, but to add to collections of objects brought together by committees of schools and contributed by the localities in which such schools are situated. It is of great importance on such occasions to bring together, as far as possible, all art objects of interest in the district.

c. Artisans being students of the school must be

admitted free; but all other persons should pay a moderate fee for admission, which should be higher in the morning than in the evening. To enable artisans, not students in the school, and others employed in the day-time, to share in the benefits to be derived from the collection, the fee on two evenings in the week is not to exceed one penny each person.

d. Should there be a balance of profit after all local expenses are paid, it must be applied for the benefit of the school with which the exhibition is connected.

Arrangements for carriage must be made by the local committee. When the Department is called upon to contribute to this charge, payment will be made to the authorized officer of the exhibition, on the production of a certificate of the cost, supported by the railway company's or carriers' receipts. The Department claims the right of sending collections by the route considered to be the safest.

Applications for circulating collections for exhibition must be made on Form 605, and the Department must be furnished with full information as to the nature of the building in which the exhibition is to be held, provision for the safety of the objects from fire, police arrangements, admission of the public, especially artisans, dates of opening and closing the exhibition, and other similar particulars if required.

Application for any of the series of engravings, photographs, &c., named may be made at any time. The charges for carriage to the school must be paid by the local committee, but the Department will pay the carriage back. The committee must guarantee the

security and safe return of the works lent; and the secretary, upon receiving any work of art from the Department, must immediately report its condition to the Department, should it be received by him in a state damaged or calling for remark, such as injury to the frame, breakage of seal, &c.

The art library is a collection of about 56,000 volumes, 20,000 drawings and designs, 69,000 prints, and 56,000 photographs.

The objects of the library are special—1st, for the instruction of students of the National Art Training School and the Schools of Art; and 2nd, for the use of the general public on subjects connected with the history, practice, and illustration of art.

The collection of original drawings and prints illustrates ornamental art and affords materials of study for students and others. The collection of photographs includes architectural subjects, examples of ornament, and specimens of art from various public and private collections, both in Great Britain and abroad.

The Birmingham Museum contains an admirable collection of loan pictures, some of them by leading artists of the day. The geological and mineralogical collections are especially full, and the collection of Cyprus pottery well deserving of notice. The new Art Gallery, opened by the Prince of Wales in December, reflects infinite credit upon the town.

The Museum and Free Library at Derby form one of the most striking buildings in the entire town, and it will be interesting here to notice what is stated in the last report. The keeper of the museum, Mr. T. J.

Moore, submitted his report to the committee in October, 1885, for the past half-year, from which it appeared that during 105 days of 1885 there had been 205,438 visitors, compared with 262,276 during 114

DERBY FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

days in 1884, showing a decrease of 56,838. The daily average number of visitors during the same period in 1885 was 1,956, against 2,300 in 1884, being a decrease of 344. The total number of visitors to the

museum, from its opening in the present building, on the 18th October, 1861, to the 18th October, 1885, amounted to 10,162,762, giving a yearly average of 423,440. Three circumstances are given as a reason for the decrease in the number of visitors the previous Easter holidays, the nine fewer days during which the museum was open, and the wide-spread depression of trade, which, it is stated, limited the number of excursionists, who form a large part of the summer visitors.

This Library and Museum was the gift of the late Mr. W. T. Bass, M.P., whose portrait we give, and to whose memory a statue has been erected in Derby, which was unveiled in 1885.

The statue is a very fine full length figure in frock coat, standing 8 ft. 6 in., and weighing nearly two tons. Mr. Bass is represented contemplating the plans of the Free Library and Museum, his greatest gift to Derby. This was the attitude chosen by the artist, because the exigences of the site required that the statue should be placed on a rather high pedestal. The left hand rests on the plans, and Mr. Bass is represented looking down upon them, by which means the spectator looking up gets a view of the full face.

With regard to the collection, Mr. Moore reports as follows :—“The specimens stuffed or in skin continue in good preservation. A pictorial group has been prepared and mounted, under the direction of the keeper, by Mr. Henry Reynolds, the museum taxidermist, of the limited group of swimming birds, known as snake birds, or darters (genus *Plotus*). They are so called,

firstly, from their habit of swimming with the body submerged, and only the long, thin, snake-like neck showing out of the water; and, secondly, from their dexterity in transfixing the fish they prey upon by their long, narrow, and sharp-pointed beaks, as shown in the group referred to, which comprises examples of the

THE LATE MR. W. T. BASS, M.P.

three or four known species from the tropical and southern portions of both hemispheres. Specimens of mammals and birds have been exhibited in illustration of lectures in the Rotunda Hall, by W. J. Stewart, B.A. Oxon, on the British colonies, now in course of delivery; and specimens of the Bontebok antelope

and young have been exhibited before the Literary and Philosophical Society, in illustration of a paper, by the curator, on the museums and menageries of Holland. The Bonteboks bred at Knowsley and the young, at first uniformly fawn-coloured, passed through an intermediate state of colouring, in which the face was black, previously to assuming the milk-white face and the rich chocolate body colours of the adult. Pictorial groups have also been mounted, illustrative of the hydromys, or Australian beaver rats; of the coypus, a large semi-aquatic rodent of South America; of the musquash of North America; of three species of teurecs, or small insectivorous mammals, peculiar to Madagascar; and of the wombat, or bear-like burrowing marsupial of Tasmania. The beaver rats are strictly Australian, and frequent the muddy sides of creeks and waterholes and the banks of the larger rivers and inlets of the sea. The water is the native element of these creatures, for they swim and dive with the greatest facility, and easily seclude themselves amid the sedges, or descend to their holes after the manner of the common water vores of Europe. They were among the first specimens of mammalia brought to Europe from Australia, and attracted much attention among the French naturalists. The coypus are much larger rodents, widely spread over the eastern parts of South America, and at one time their fur was used as a substitute for that of the beaver in making hats. The musquash is so abundant in the fur countries of North America that Dr. Nevins informs me that he has seen thousands of skins destroyed in the old days of the

Hudson's Bay Company, simply to keep up the prices of the more valuable furs. The series of upper wall cases for ruminants, mentioned in the previous report, have been completed, and have given greatly increased accommodation for the display of the ruminants belonging to the Derby collection and of the numerous additions thereto. The Derby specimens of antelopes are now much better seen than previously, and in more continuous and more consecutive order. Additional cases have also been provided. These have been devoted to the marsupials, in which the Derby collection is rich. These cases are two in number, glazed on the top and on all four sides. They stand in central spaces on the floor of the first Mammalia Room, and serve a very special purpose of an educational character, by which a very recently emphasized scientific arrangement of the mammalia is so marked off as to be readily recognized and remembered. The marsupials are now regarded as descended from a lower stock than the non-marsupial mammalia, and below these are the two forms of monotremes—the echidnas and the duck-billed platypus. These three fundamental divisions can be pointed out and recognized immediately on entering the first room devoted to the mammalia, and easily remembered. The lowest division of all the monotremes, arranged in two pictorial groups, occupy two small glass cases near the windows to the right hand. All the marsupials or pouched animals (kangaroos, opossums, &c.) are contained in the large upright cases in the central line of the room; and all the other mammalia in the wall cases of this room and

the four rooms beyond it belong to the third and highest division, or those mammals which suckle their young in the usual way. The removal of the marsupials into these two upright central cases results in their vacated space being available for the better display of the edentates and rodents occupying the wall cases around them. Of these, the edentates (sloths, ant eaters, armadilloes, &c.) have been re-arranged; and the rodents will be taken in hand immediately."

The public museum of Sheffield in connection with the Free Libraries, and under the management of the same committee, is, for a moderate-sized museum, one of the best-arranged and most interesting in the country. The building in which it is situated, and the park in which it stands, were generously given by Miss Weston, and the appreciation shown by the public of that busy town will be seen on reference to the statistics given in the last report.

The statistics are from September 1, 1884, to August 31, 1885 :—" Total number of visitors, 125,035 ; weekly average (52 weeks), 2,405 ; daily average (258 days), 485 ; greatest number of visitors in one day, 3,580."

The report further states :—" There has been a decrease of 13,553 in the total number of visitors as compared with the previous year, and a decrease of 52 in the daily average. The whole of this decrease has occurred in the last half of the year, there being an increase of visitors during the first half. This falling off in the number of visitors does not appear to show any decline in the interest taken in the permanent collections in the museum, but is rather due to the

absence of any special attraction during the year just ended, while during the latter half of the previous year one of the large paintings by E. J. Poynter, R.A., was, through the kindness of the owner, the Earl of Wharcliffe, exhibited in the museum, and attracted a large number of visitors. The steady increase of the museum collections in archæology, natural history, and technology, has necessitated encroachment upon the space previously devoted to the exhibition of loan collections of pictures; and only one large collection has been exhibited this year, kindly lent by Mrs. Bramley. The seven paintings lent by the trustees of the National Gallery in 1884 still remain on view.

“The number of students who have been observed with note-book or sketch-book in hand, making special study of objects in the museum, has been most markedly in excess of any previous year; while in addition, students who have had permission given to them to study in the museum on days when it is closed to the general public, have availed themselves of this permission on forty-one days. Persons from other and distant towns have visited the museum for the purpose of inspecting and studying objects in which they were interested. Specimens have been lent to the School of Art for the use of students, and also to the Rev. J. B. Dalton, of Darley Dale, to illustrate a lecture.”

One feature in connection with the Liverpool museum may be noticed as being quite a new departure. In the spring of 1885 an experiment, occupying a considerable amount of time in preparation, new to museums, and of much promise, was commenced by the committee, and

has been carried on with considerable success. It consists in the selection and arrangement of duplicate specimens of instructive and attractive character from the museum collections, and placing them in small portable cabinets of less than two feet cubical measurement, of plain and simple construction, and very portable. These cabinets are circulated one by one for a definite period of one month among such of the public elementary schools of all denominations, within the parliamentary boundaries of the city, as have, on invitation, expressed a desire to receive them. Sixteen cabinets are in circulation, and sixty-four schools have each had a cabinet for one month, with very satisfactory results. The specimens have suffered no damage, and the teachers have been glad to receive them as most useful and attractive subjects for object lessons to their various classes. The cabinets are now going the round of the schools again, each school receiving a different cabinet from the one that preceded it.

We commend this most useful plan to the notice of other committees.

The museum in connection with the Worcester Free Library is one of considerable local interest. In that city one of the most celebrated potteries in the world is situated, and the Worcester Royal Porcelain Works is almost the only one remaining of the old establishments of the last century. Mr. R. W. Binns, F.S.A., Managing Director of the Company, has established and presented to the museum a collection of the productions of this firm, which has a continuous story of 130 years, and in other cases there are specimens of Roman pottery

made in the same neighbourhood some fourteen hundred years before.

Mr. Binns has compiled a book of this unique collection, consisting of over 180 pages, and these are relieved by beautiful engravings of some of the pottery, and forms in itself the most trustworthy of all records of old Worcester porcelain.

In July, 1881, a very handsome set of buildings was opened in Ipswich, comprising Museum, Free Library, and School of Art, when the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., were present and took part in the proceedings.

Lord Henniker (in the place of Sir Richard Wallace, Bart., M.P., president of the institution) addressed the large assembly, and the curator, Dr. J. E. Taylor, read a report giving a short history of the Museum, which was founded in 1847. It early obtained scientific importance from the fact of the late Professor Henslow being at its head, and devoting much time to it. In its earlier time scientific discourses were given in connection with it, the most renowned being those by Professor Airy on astronomy, which have gone through six editions. Nine years ago the present curator re-introduced the plan of giving courses of free lectures on natural science, and these have been attended by average audiences of about 400. The new buildings were erected at a cost of £9,000.

The Ipswich Museum possesses one of the finest local geological collections in Europe, consisting chiefly of those crag fossils which are found only in the

east of England. The collections of minerals, shells, British and foreign birds and mammals, and of local

THE MUSEUM, FREE LIBRARY, AND SCHOOL OF ART, IPSWICH.

antiquities, are of great value, and all the collections are arranged for scientific educational purposes. Ips-

wich possessed one of the earliest public libraries in the kingdom, and the books now stand side by side with modern works. As early as 1660 there was a Free Library of about 500 volumes, chiefly theological in their character; but many of these are now valuable as being first editions of otherwise rare books. Topographical and antiquarian books are also well represented, all of them early issues. The School of Art is under the direction of Mr. W. T. Griffiths, and some rising artists have been trained by him—notably Mr. F. W. Cotman, Mr. W. Symonds, and others.



CHAPTER XIX.

FREE LIBRARY LECTURES.

the chapters immediately preceding this, we have dealt at length with the popular and useful museums attached to some Free Libraries. To many not familiar with these centres of light and leading it will be news to know that for several winters past, series of lectures have been given, in some cases the admission being free, and in others a small charge made.

Those who imagine that the attendants at these lectures have been entirely from the working classes should convince themselves to the contrary by attending one of them. All classes have been more or less represented, and the attention given and evident enjoyment of them is sufficient proof how

thoroughly they are appreciated. From a list of some of the subjects given later, it will be seen that these are not of a class organized simply for the amusement of a scratch audience, but that solid information has been conveyed, giving, in a large number of instances, a direct incentive to the perusal of special books.

Townsmen have, as a rule, been the lecturers, in other cases paid professional lecturers. As suggestive to the committees of other Free Libraries, we give a list of the free lectures given in one of the Board Schools in connection with the Aston Free Library, during the third session of these libraries of 1885-6.

“Charles Kingsley.”

“Epitaphs, Historical, Quaint, and Whimsical.” Illustrated by drawings, and rubbings from monuments, brasses, stones, &c.

“Sketches from the Lives of Great Musicians.” With musical illustrations.

“Wanderings in America, from New York to the Rocky Mountains.” With lime-light illustrations.

“The Chinese Empire.”

“Some Low Forms of Life : with examples taken from the flora and fauna of Sutton Park.” With illuminated illustrations.

“Readings from the American Poets.”

“Some Wonders of Creation—near at home in the Midlands.”

“Glimpses of Life in England a Hundred Years Ago.”

“Charles Dickens.”

“Switzerland.” With lime-light illustrations.

“The Birmingham Boulders and the Great Ice Age.”

“Surnames: Their History and Formation.”

“The Isle of Man: Its Scenery, Legendary Lore, and Historical Associations.” With lime-light illustrations.

In connection with the Liverpool Free Library, forty lectures were delivered during the winter season of 1884-5, and the total number of persons who attended the lectures reached 47,490, giving an average per lecture of 1,187. The titles of some of these lectures were as follows:—

“Liverpool Sixty Years Since.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“A Nineteenth Century Cathedral.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“A Visit to the Falls of Niagara.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“The Life and Work of Sir W. Siemens.”

“The Division of Labour and the Education of the People.”

“Piracy in Chinese Waters.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Habitations of Insects.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Humorous and Dramatic Recitals from English and American Authors.”

“Relics of the Past in the Life of To-day.”

“Living Stoves and their Fuel, or the Philosophy of Respiration and Food.” Illustrated with experiments.

“Spectacles; or, How will he Look at it?”

“Readings from Shakespeare, Tennyson, and other Authors.”

“Stories and Storytelling.”

“A Piece of Chalk.” Illustrated by experiments.

“Mount Vesuvius and the Long Buried Cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Concerning Insanitary Houses.—Light, Pure Air, and Water: how to obtain them.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Recent Additions to the Museum.” Illustrated by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Readings, Humorous and Dramatic, chiefly original.”

“The Dangerous Classes.”

“Concerning Insanitary Houses.—Impure Air and Water: their evil effects.” Illustrated by experiments.

“Mozart, his Times and Music.” Illustrated by vocal and instrumental music.

“English Memorials of some Old French Towns.” Illustrated with photographs and drawings shown by the oxyhydrogen light.

“Corals and Coral Islands.”

“Was Hamlet Mad?” With readings from the play.

“Christopher Columbus.”

“Homer, and his Story of Odysseus.” With illustrations.

“Illustrations of Elocutionary Vocal Training, —Bardell v. Pickwick.”

“The Chemistry of Water.” Illustrated by experiments.

“Primitive Navigation.”

“Customs, Superstitions, and Folk-lore of Lancashire.”

“Beethoven, his Times and Music.” Illustrated by vocal and instrumental music.

“Our Empire of the Sea—How we won it and how we have kept it.”

“Man—His Life and Manners in Great Britain before History was Written.”

“The Clarionet, Oboea, and Bassoon—their acoustical properties demonstrated experimentally.” With illustrations by the light.

“Stories in Marble.” With illustrations of ancient and modern sculpture.

“Sacred Animals.” Illustrated by the light.

“Humorous and Dramatic Recitals from English and American Authors.”

Miss Jane E. Harrison, of Newnham College, delivered, during October, the first of a course of three lectures on Greek Art, in the Rossetti Room of the Walker Art Gallery, under the auspices of the Corporation of Liverpool. Alderman Samuelson, the chairman of the Art and Exhibition Sub-committee, presided, and the room was crowded. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that he was there that night for the purpose of introducing to them Miss Harrison, whose reputation throughout this country was pretty well established as a writer on ancient art, on the myths of “Odyssey,” and other works. If

these books afforded them as much pleasure as they had given him, they would be exceedingly delighted. For a very long period he had been looking forward to that visit from Miss Harrison ; but it was owing to her multifarious engagements, or she would have been in Liverpool before. There was another reason why they had not struck out in this commonly-called "new departure." The committee had been under the impression that the University College was likely to do something in the same direction, and he was glad to see that the college had been successful in obtaining the services of Professor Conway. The Arts Committee had deferred taking action in the matter of providing art tuition, partly because they had anticipated that considering the number of artists residing in our midst they would themselves have taken up the matter. Both with regard to the exhibition of works of art and likewise of art teaching by lectures, the Corporation of Liverpool had been forced to the front. As amateurs, they did not profess great things, but they professed an interest in art for many years past, and it was now a question whether another departure would not be taken, it not being at all improbable that the Art Committee of the future would do something in the way of art lectures. Efforts had already been made in this direction periodically. Popular lectures had been delivered by Mr. Bishop, the head of the School of Art in Liverpool, who has done so much good work here. Mr. John Finnie had delivered a course of lectures on etchings. Mr. Kerry and Mr. Gatty had also lectured ; besides amateur lectures by

Mr. Rathbone, Mr. Grindley, and the worthy curator of the Walker Art Gallery, Mr. Dyall. There was a point which he thought was well worthy of consideration, and that was that lectures be given specially addressed to the artisans of this town, who had quite as great a right to claim attention in this direction as the artists themselves. He looked forward with interest to the report of the Commissioners on the Depression of Trade to see whether they in any way touched upon the question of the study of ancient art. Referring to the School of Design in Manchester, he said that they should not rest contented in Liverpool till a similar institution was established here. Miss Harrison then proceeded with her lecture, which dealt with archaic and transitional art 600 B.C. down to 460 B.C.

Many of these lectures were illustrated with the oxyhydrogen light, the property of the Free Library, and presented by a leading townsman. We shall refer more fully to the Liverpool libraries under another heading.

At Birmingham, in connection with the Reference Library, lectures have been given on the following subjects:—

“On Books on Law and Jurisprudence.”

“On Books on Legal and Constitutional History.”

“Books on Shakespeare.”

“On Botanical Books in the Reference Library.”

“On some Art Books in the Reference Library.”

“The Greek and Latin Classics.”

“On Botanical Books of the Nineteenth Century.”

One of the latest of these lectures, delivered in

October, 1885, was on the historical books in the Reference Library by Mr. Osmund Airy. There is no apology required for quoting a short portion of this lecture, and it will be seen from it that the lecturer referred not only to the books in the library, but that it was a powerful incentive to readers to take up a course of historical reading.

Mr. Airy remarked that, with regard to historical study, there were three sets of persons requiring entirely different treatment, and he could only address one of them that evening. There were those who, for some purely commercial purpose, such as an examination, desired to "get up a period." He did not propose to address himself to this class, except to say that a compilation of history by the nameless owner of a pair of scissors and a pot of paste was less likely to suit their purpose than the work of some known historian. To another class, those who endeavoured to discover and construct history for themselves, and hoped perhaps to supply a vacant place in the historical library by historical investigation, he did not propose to speak. It was possible that a third class existed between these two, who, confused by multiplicity of books, might be glad of assistance in the shape of testimonials to character, and of suggestions for a course of reading sufficient to equip them, with the ultimate object always of more detailed study, with a general view of the story of their own country. The history of England was, in a sense, different from that of all other nations—the history of freedom, of national freedom, of local and municipal freedom, above all, of individual freedom.

From the peoples of every country in Europe, from peoples wherever they existed, had been rising through all time a passionate cry for freedom—"Air, more air." Everywhere there had been a never-ending conspiracy of the tyrant, the sluggard, and the man of riches to bury and keep out of sight the jewel whose price was above rubies. Only in one country had the cry of many voices, note above note, most tunable, become a chorus too powerful to be stifled by princes as princes had stifled it elsewhere. Having spoken of the change which had come over the method of writing history since the time when men wrote history to bolster up their own political theories or philosophical views, and of the vast mass of ancient documentary evidence which had become available during the last few years, Mr. Airy said that in selecting text-books the first requirements should be orderliness and accuracy. Having compared the merits of various text-books in these and other important respects, the lecturer went on to describe, in a most interesting manner, the books which deal more exhaustively with the various periods of English history. He concluded with an eloquent incitement to historical study, as to the utility of which he pointed out that every man lived two lives, the life by which he got his daily bread, and the life by which he acted and was reacted upon as a citizen of his country. So long as a man cumbered English air and took up space on English soil, he was a citizen of England, and could not divest himself of citizenship. And so he would say "Read history that you may cultivate morality, reverence tolerance; but above all

read history that you may be able to do a citizen's service to the world, and as in duty bound, to your own country and your own town."

Each of these lectures have been published at the small charge of a penny each, and contain a catalogue of the books in the Reference Library on the subject of which they treat.

In nearly all these cases the lecturers have been local men who have given their services gratuitously. Who can gauge the intelligence which has been quickened, the solid information which has been gained, and the evenings which have been well and profitably spent by these lectures? and we would respectfully urge upon other districts which already have Free Libraries to commence this most useful feature in the work of Free Libraries.





CHAPTER XX.

SCIENCE AND ART CLASSES IN CONNECTION WITH FREE LIBRARIES.

THE number of Free Libraries which have up to the present introduced science and art classes as a department, is not large, and this is the more to be wondered at seeing the expense of doing so is so trifling and the facilities and inducements offered by the Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education at South Kensington being so great. Under the head of Museums, we have given some particulars, and we desire to lay urgently before committees the need of extending these classes where the plan has not been already adopted. Among the most useful of our national institutions is the South Kensington Museum, and it is no exaggeration to say

that the entire country has in one way or another benefited from it. Its scope is very comprehensive, and there is little or no fault can be found in its management.

The work of science and art is of a most important nature, and these schools have had an influence on public taste and the catering for artistic taste on the part of manufacturers, which cannot be over-estimated. In all parts of the country they have proved in a hundred ways their usefulness. Although under the designation of schools of art they are of modern growth, there are at the present time no less than 40,000 students attending the classes at these schools, and in a very large number of instances they are producing work of high artistic merit. There is scarcely an industry of prominence which has not in some way benefited by schools of art, and in some trades, particularly in pottery, glass, textiles, silver, and electroplated ware, the effect of these schools has been so marked that they have now become most necessary, and have in numerous ways exercised a vitalizing influence. To what extent these schools have been the means of supplanting foreign designs by English designers, is known only to those immediately associated with them, and had no other good come out of them than this, their existence would have been more than justified, for there is a distinctly British taste which has only been catered for successfully by British designers.

The majority of these various science and art classes scattered throughout the country provide vigorous centres of art, and are aided by occasional loan objects of

art from the national collection at South Kensington. Our contention is, that if art occupied some place, however small, in the earlier education of boys and girls, the number of students would be trebled and quadrupled in a few years. Instead of, as at present, their being the ultimate school of the few, they would be the resort of the many. This is the desired end, and any means which lead up to this cannot fail to have a beneficial effect generally, and give a still greater impetus to the demand for art manufactures, and a spirited competition to produce work of a satisfactory character to meet that demand.

The aim of all education should be to remove from the mind all feeling that that process of education is mere routine where so much has to be committed to memory, and no schools have given so much inspiration and so much new life to all other studies as the immediate studies connected with schools of art. Their expansion will be a national boon and, perhaps more than anything else, they will enable us to retain that commercial supremacy which we have so long enjoyed, but which in the future every effort will have to be strained to maintain. They have encouraged higher standards of excellence, and have produced a wholesome emulation which has made its results evident in manufactures. These Government schools were originally designed for the artisan classes, and such among them as showed ability to rise to the higher grade in their own particular trade, and from that to advance, if they showed that still further ability to rise, to the practice of ornamental and inventive art. It can with every truth be

said that they have had, however, an even greater utility than this, for they have been creative of designs and ornamentations which have given beauty to the eye and work to the operative.

When we turn to art in the leading industries, we find that the best of this has been the immediate product in one form or another of the schools of art. In no art industry is this probably more evident than in pottery and glass. In one case where an immense industry has arisen, it is stated, and stated with good reason, that it owes its very existence to the influence of a neighbouring school of art, and distinctly new classes of both pottery and glass have been the outcome. In these wares there is an originality of conception and treatment which has led to an immense sale. A similar result has taken place in other industries. In lace curtains and wall papers, instead of sprawling palm trees and flowers to which it would be impossible to give a name, huddled together in ugly confusion, there are now curtains and papers cheaper in price than these horrible abortions, and possessing considerable artistic merit. It is said that one firm alone in Nottingham pay as much as £5,000 a year to seventy designers and apprentices. In metal work again they have exercised a most beneficial influence.

A sum of money is annually granted by Parliament for instruction in art in the United Kingdom, and is administered by the Science and Art Department, hereinafter called the Department.

The object of the grant is to promote instruction in drawing, painting, and modelling, and designing for

architecture, manufactures, and decoration, especially among the industrial classes. The amount is liable to be decreased and eventually withdrawn. Payments to teachers therefore must not be looked upon as perpetual or in any way conferring on the teacher a claim to any payments beyond those offered from time to time.

To effect this object, the Department gives aid towards the teaching of elementary drawing in elementary day schools and training colleges; towards the teaching of drawing in art classes; towards instruction in art in schools of art; and towards the training of art teachers. The art library and collections of decorative art at South Kensington are also made available for the purposes of instruction in schools of art.

No undertaking should be commenced in general reliance upon aid from the parliamentary grant. An application for such aid should, in the first instance, be addressed to the Secretary, Science and Art Department, London, S.W.

The official book, giving full instructions, is the "Art Directory," published at sixpence by Messrs. Chapman & Hall, but in order to make this section the more complete, we give, in the following pages, the leading directions as to the formation of science and art classes.

RULES FOR FORMATION AND CONTINUANCE OF LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR SCHOOLS AND CLASSES RECEIVING AID THROUGH THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT

1. Every science or art school or class in connexion

with the Science and Art Department must be under the superintendence of a committee.

The committee must consist of a chairman, a secretary, and at least three other members. The offices of chairman and secretary cannot be held by the same person. All the members of the committee must be well-known responsible persons of independent position, who have no personal interest in the teachers or pupils of the school.

Candidates for examination by the Department or their teachers in *any* subjects; relatives of such a teacher; relatives of candidates for examination, *except where the examinations are conducted by a special local secretary*, and teachers of schools receiving government grants, are therefore not eligible to be members of the committee.

Local committees desirous to appoint a special local secretary for the town or district in which they are situated should apply to the Department before February 14th.

2. It is very desirable that as many persons as possible in recognized positions of public responsibility in the district, such as mayors, provosts, town councillors, magistrates, members of school boards, trustees of grammar schools, clergymen of the established church in parochial employment, and ministers of religion in charge of legally recognized places of public worship should be on the committee. It is *absolutely necessary* that at least two such responsible persons should agree to act. The chairman, who will be required to certify that the constitution of the committee is in accordance

with the above requirements, must be in a position of public responsibility as defined above.

3. The gentlemen who intend to act on a local committee must sign and complete this form. No one can be a member of a committee, or assist in the conduct of an examination, whose signature to the undertaking has not been *previously* approved by the department. Care must be taken that the members who sign the form are properly acquainted with their duties, a summary of which is given below (see § 5). The details of these duties are fully stated in the Science and Art Directories, which may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Department.

4. When a school or class is first formed, the following undertaking must be signed *at a general meeting of the committee*. If the same committee continue to act the next year, it will only be necessary to fill up, at a meeting of the committee, the form No. 168, which expresses the willingness of the members to act for another year. New members of an old committee sign the undertaking on Form No. 88B.

Unless this form is received before October 31st no payments will be made on the results of the next examinations.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES.

5. The Department requires that the local committee shall—

- a.* Be responsible for the safe custody of all apparatus and examples towards the purchase of which the Department has granted aid.

- b. Provide a room or rooms of sufficient size to carry out the annual examination according to the detailed regulations prescribed in the Science and Art Directories. To this examination *all* persons who wish to present themselves, and not only those attending the school or class must be admitted, provided that there be room for them, and that they have given due notice according to the rules. Persons who do not belong to the school or class may be required to pay the authorized fee for each subject in which they register their names for examination.
- c. Frequently visit the school during the attendance of the science and art classes; sign the attendance register, and enter in it the number of students present; and take care that the school registers showing the occupations of the students, their attendances, payments of fees, &c. (Science and Art Forms, Nos. 486, 486*a*, 486*b*, and 486*c*), are kept from day to day, and sent to the Science and Art Department, together with the claim for payments on the results of the examinations.
- d. Send, when required, to the Secretary of the Department in Form 119 a list of the students to be examined, specifying the subjects in which they are to be examined; superintend, if required, the examinations in accordance with the rules of the Department; give out the examination papers which will be sent for that purpose; see them fairly worked and certify the same, not less than three of the committee being *always* present;

and send the worked papers under seal by the day's post to the Secretary of the Department. (When a special Local Secretary is appointed by the Department the Committee is relieved of a part of this work.)

- (e.) When required, transmit to the Department for examination works executed in the school or class during the previous year, and make an annual report of its proceedings.
- (f.) Certify that the students on the result of whose examination claims for payment are made belong to the industrial classes, as defined by the Science and Art Directories; and that the payments claimed are due according to the regulations.
- (g.) Certify that all students, on account of whose instructions payments are claimed, have received at least twenty lessons since the last examination at which they were successful—each lesson being an attendance at a meeting of the class of at least an hour's duration on a separate day. The twenty lessons must all have been given during the two years next preceding the examination on the results of which payments are claimed. Students who have been previously examined in a subject must have received at least the requisite number of lessons since the last examination at which they were successful, irrespectively of those previously given to them.
- (h.) Undertake that the school shall be at all times

open to the visit and inspection of the officers of the Department.

6. The school or class will be inspected periodically by an officer of the Department, who will report whether the regulations are strictly carried out. When notice of an Inspector's visit has been given, a meeting of the Committee must be held to receive him, which as many of the members as possible are expected to attend.

FORM OF APPLICATION TO ACT AS A COMMITTEE FOR
A SCHOOL OR CLASS RECEIVING AID THROUGH
THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.

DIRECTIONS.

This form is to be filled in, signed at a general meeting of the committee, certified by the chairman, and returned to the Department IMMEDIATELY on the formation of a school or class.

When a committee continues to act for another year for a school or class, Form No. 168 should be filled in with the names of all the old members who consent to continue to act on the committee, and be transmitted to the Department.

When a committee continues to act for another year for a school or class, Form No. 88B should be signed by NEW MEMBERS ONLY, and forwarded to the Department after being certified by the chairman.

If this form, in the case of a new school, or No. 168, in the case of an old school, be not sent in before October 31st, and any alterations considered necessary by the

Department be not made before January 31st, so that the committee may be at least provisionally approved by that date, no payments will be made on the results of the examination of that school or class in the ensuing May.

UNDERTAKING.

We, the undersigned, declare that we have read the rules for formation and continuance of local committees, the summary of duties, the directions, and the undertaking given herein, and that in accordance with them we propose to act as the local committee for the

[* Science School, School of Art, or Art Class.]
held at the _____

[† Name of institution or building.]

[† Name of street or place.]

[† Name of city, town, or village ; if not a post-town state
post-town.]

_____ [Name of County.]
and taught by _____

[Give the names of all the teachers.]

* State which.

† Strike out the words printed in brackets which do not apply.

[N.B.—If this committee acts for more than one

school, the names of the different buildings in which they are held must be distinctly stated above.]

And we undertake for the year ending August 31st 188 , at least, and further until another committee satisfactory to the Science and Art Department have been appointed, the several duties and responsibilities herein detailed.

Signature.	Address.	Occupation, specially stating how fulfilling the conditions of rule 2.
Chairman.		
Secretary.		Secretary's Occupation.

Secretary's name, style, and address in full, as envelopes should be addressed.]

I certify that all the above are autographs, and that this Committee complies with the requirements of the rules 1 and 2.

Chairman.

Where there are Free Libraries, and there is accom-
modation in these to hold classes, the *modus operandi* is

simple enough, as the Free Library Committee have simply to constitute themselves, or appoint a portion of the number into a science and art committee. The expense would then be very nominal.

Whatever leads to associate the interest of intelligent young men with a Free Library the better for the young men, and the better for the town, and science and art classes have a distinct tendency in this direction.



CHAPTER XXI.

A WORD TO FREE LIBRARY COMMITTEES.

have the greatest respect for committees to whose hands are committed the care of Free Libraries and it is with much fear and trembling that we sum up courage to address a few words to them. Take these committees as a whole, they reflect the intelligence of the town council, for only gentlemen known as having educational sympathies are, or should be, elected on them.

In some towns the plan has been adopted of having a number of ratepayers' representatives on the committee. To what extent this plan is adopted will be seen by the following :—

At Wolverhampton there are members of the Council 6, non-members 13;

	Members of Council.		Non-members.	
Birmingham	..	11	..	6
Derby	9	.. ..	7
Exeter	17	.. ..	15
Liverpool	4	.. ..	16
Salford	18	.. ..	11

Many other illustrations might be given.

A clear and distinct sympathy with the Free Library work as a factor in the town's progress and welfare, should be the leading characteristic of every individual member of the committee, and we know from pleasant personal experiences that this is the ruling aim of the majority of these committees.

In your choice of chief librarian and assistants, a few reasonable and good rules may be laid down. The student and the book-worm does not necessarily make the best librarian for a Free Library, often, in fact, the very opposite. An acute sense of the uses and purposes of a Free Library should be very evident. Some of the best chief librarians in the country cannot be considered great scholars, but they know full well how to select the best and most readable books, and how to classify them in order to give the reading public the least possible trouble. The good librarian is a perambulating catalogue of the titles of books rather than a minute knowledge of their contents. He will not aim to be a specialist, otherwise his list of suggested books for his committee will be coloured with his own special line of study. Free Libraries are not, and never ought to be, the homes of valuable and scarce books prized by the bibliographer. The Shakespeare Library of Birmingham is

an effort worthy of the town, but it is only a strong institution with a public willing to spend money in this way who can afford such an admirable collection as that to which we refer.

Should rare and valuable books be offered, receive them with open arms; and on this subject of presentations of books we would say that no individual member of a Free Library committee can better signalize his interest in the library than by a gift of some useful and suitable books. Make it well known to your public that gifts of books will be acceptable, and in the case of a newly-established library give an idea of what kind of books are wanted. State in advance that paper-back and elaborately boarded novels, sermons, and the goody-goody kind are not wanted. Intimate that good engravings, paintings, tapestry, statuary, would be acceptable for the reading-room. Gifts such as these are often not made because they are never solicited. If more were done in this way we should have brighter and more cheerful rooms,—rooms which invite occupants by their prepossessing appearance, and elevate those habituating them.

The most delicate point upon which we have to touch is that of salaries. Here is an advertisement from a recent number of the *Athenæum* :—

BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH.—The Free Libraries Committee of the borough of Great Yarmouth are prepared to receive applications for the office of Librarian to the Free Library about to be opened in the town. Salary £65 per annum (payable monthly), with apart-

ments and coals and gas. The applicant would be required to commence his duties in about two months. Applications (with testimonials), stating age and past and present employment of applicant, to be forwarded, &c. October 12, 1885.

We are not signalling out Great Yarmouth as an exception, for unfortunately salaries of chief librarians, take the country through, run down to an insignificant sum. We do not know how many applications there were for this post,—doubtless a large number. We do most earnestly crave for better remuneration for chief librarians. What is £75 up to £120 a year with house, coals, and gas free? Dissect it and see the heart-burnings and unpaid debts there are behind it, to say nothing of a savings bank account for later years. We plead for these honest and attentive workers, often at their post for twelve hours a day. Do, gentlemen, we beg, be a little more liberal. You pay them less than a clerk's salary, and expect perfection. It does not follow, because there are numerous applications, no matter how low is the salary advertised, that it is only requisite to offer a low sum. How many of these applicants, if they were tried, would be found suitable? We know how closely watched these committees are in their expenditure. We know how difficult it is to make the nimble penny suffice to meet all demands, and we are strong advocates for a higher rate; but do stretch a point and take seriously into consideration how poorly paid usually is the staff of a Free Library, and especially the chief librarian. All honour to those committees who have

boldly stepped out and are now paying better salaries. One word more—If the funds will not permit of better salaries, give your librarian permission to receive tradesmen's advertisements for the catalogue. This is a commercial age as well as a reading age, and if you will do this he can increase his own salary without taxing the ratepayers or spending the time he should give to the library for his own purposes. We place this suggestion in all seriousness before Free Library committees. There are many suitable advertisements which might be obtained.

Do not expect your chief librarian to be the man at the desk entering out and taking in the books, and so uselessly employed in doing the work of a boy. His time would be far better engaged in preparing lists of new books, classification, cataloguing, and in other more important work. The amount of routine about a Free Library for the chief librarian is simply amazing, and it is only individual members of a committee who familiarize themselves with it who know the extent of the minutiae. Again, break through the demand that the books shall be ordered in the town, and go to the cheapest market. The librarian, by a good acquaintance with the catalogues of second-hand books, could often save the committee pounds.

The beau-ideal of a librarian of a Free Library is a man keenly in touch with the reading public, a man of infinite tact, a good disciplinarian, with the bump of order prominently developed, of ready resource, and who has the pages of the catalogue printed on his mind's eye. If he is ignorant of the value to a sixpence of a copy of the Treacle or Breeches Bible, so much the better.

With regard to assistants, it is a good thing that examinations have now been established, and in the *Library Chronicle* for June-July, 1885, there will be found the questions put to candidates for posts as assistants. We regret that the limits of our book prevent our printing these questions. Avoid the high collar and gaiter young gentleman, even if he be a son of a member of the committee. Users of a Free Library neither want patronage nor bullying; they desire simply courtesy and attention, whether rich or poor, and if very poor, the more need for courteous and kindly treatment.

There is a desire in some towns to follow the Manchester plan, and do away with fines for books kept over date. We are, however, strong advocates for the continuation of fines as a source of considerable income, and as being far preferable to cancelling a borrower's ticket because he keeps a book over time. This, it appears to us, is a greater hardship than paying a fine. The use of the indicator being now so general, the borrower does not require to bring the book to have it renewed.

We think the plan of having borrowers' tickets renewed each year at a fixed time, irrespective of date of issue, and making a charge of one penny for the renewal, a good one. This not only keeps the addresses up to date, but weeds out careless and indifferent borrowers.

No matter how well a Free Library is managed, and how near infallibility a librarian may come, somebody is sure to "rush into print" over some petty and imaginary grievance or other, and much injury has often been done to a good librarian by some anonymous scribe or other,

who aired himself in the local press. In nine cases out of ten these letters of complaint are from either crotchets-mongers or people who suffer from a chronic fault-finding complaint. And in the majority of cases the librarian or his assistants would be in the right and the complainant in the wrong.

In the Manchester papers, there has recently been some correspondence on the "Censorship of the Free Libraries" in that city, which excluded some extreme books. One writer said: "The only circumstances that can justify any interference with the absolute freedom of the press are when it is guilty of purposeless indecency or obscenity, or when its language tends to endanger the public peace. Neither of these charges can be brought against the literature in question, and although I challenged inquiry in my former letter, the gentleman in question does not venture to take up the matter. What he does say is that the libraries are supplied with many admirable works at present; but is this any reason why every opportunity should not be taken to increase the variety and store, especially when this may be done without expense?"

"He mentions a number of works 'which are universally recommended as the best kind of reading for everyone,'" and says in a sort of grandfatherly way that we must be good boys and read only what he prescribes. But I deny that any class of works are universally recommended, and I altogether refuse to shape my reading upon his model. Are all ratepayers and readers of his way of thinking? And are they children or men that are called upon to submit to paternal dictation and tyranny? I am taking my stand in this matter on the

great principles of freedom of thought and opinion and religious equality, and I do hope that the result of this correspondence may be to induce the Libraries Committee to take a more liberal view of their duty than they have hitherto done. I am sorry to see such an exclusive spirit manifested in the present day, by individuals and public bodies, and I trust it may soon pass away for ever.—Yours, &c.”

This is a sample of many such letters which appear from time to time.

Strictly avoid purchasing denominational papers, but accept them as gifts should they be offered. If you once introduce them, you will soon have a very long list, for every “ism” will want to be represented.

The question of hours is an important one, but it is impossible to lay down a fixed rule for all districts. For lending and reference libraries, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. is, we think, quite sufficient. For newsrooms in large towns, 10 p.m. is not an unreasonable time. There should be for the chief librarian and his assistants at least two hours off each day, and in many instances an entire half-day holiday per week might be given.

CHAPTER XXII.—STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES.

ENGLAND.

Town.	Population.	When Opened.	Number of Branches.	No. of Vols.		Total.	Average daily Issue. Lending and Reference Departments.	If News-room attached to Chief Library and Branches.	Daily average No. of Visitors.	What amount in £ is levied.	Gross amount raised by Rate.	Librarian.
				Lending.	Reference.							
Ashton-under-Lyne	37,027	1882	none	6,714	2,208	8,922	190	yes	240	1d.	£ 510	William Naylor
Aston	58,650	1878	one	6,000	4,000	10,000	303	yes	500	1d.	580	Robert K. Dent
Barrow - in - Furness	50,000	1881	none	8,766	1,856	10,622	291	yes	1,200	1d.	840	John Frowde
Bideford	6,499	1877	none	1,600	350	1,950	...	...	...	1d.	60	
Bilston	23,000	1873	none	6,000	476	6,476	...	...	...	1d.	232	W. Fox
Birkenhead	87,000	1856	none	28,652	8,130	36,782	808	yes	...	1d.	1,680	William May
Birmingham	460,000	1860	five	55,000	78,000	133,000	3,000	yes	10,000	1d. ¹	10,000	John D. Mullins
Bradford	209,564	1872	seven	14,180	15,472	45,973	1,222	yes	3,870	1d.	3,600	Butler Wood
Bridgwater	13,000	1861	one	2,500	...	2,500	40	yes	150	1d.	130	Miss Manchip
Brierley Hill	11,047	1877	none	1,277	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Joseph H. Dudley
Bristol	206,874	1876	five	43,000	19,000	62,000	2,100	yes	5,000	1d.	3,800	John Taylor
Blackburn	104,012	1862	none	30,000	15,000	15,000	80,000	yes	not counted	1d.	1,400	D. Geddes
							per ann.					

¹ Two-thirds 1d. for Art Museum.

STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES—Continued.

Town.	Population.	When Opened.	Number of Branches.	No. of Vols.		Total.	Average daily Issue. Lending and Reference Departments.	If News-room attached to Chief Library and Branches.	Daily average No. of Visitors.	What amount in £ is levied.	Gross amount raised by Rate.	Librarian.
				Lending.	Reference.							
Blackpool	16,000	1880	none	...	...	4,000	...	yes	...	1d.	£ 430	Hannah Eteson
Bolton	110,000	1852	two	26,701	28,774	55,475	840	yes	500	1d.	1,500	James K. Waite
Bootle ¹												
Burslem	26,521	1870	none	4,700	...	4,700	...	yes	500	1d.	400	James Rigby
Cambridge	35,372	1855	one	18,025	8,008	26,033	...	yes	1,300	1d.	715	John Pink
Canterbury	21,704	1849	none	4,800	200	5,000	50	yes	80	1d.	330	A. D. Blaxland
Cheltenham	43,972	1884	none	5,606	1,719	2,071	352	yes	400	1d.	1,017	William Jones
Chester	36,794	1877	none	7,040	4,573	11,613	145	yes	400	1d.	658	Thos. M. Wilcock
Chesterfield	12,000	1879	none	5,300	2,000	7,300	38,400	yes	largely used	1d.	165	D. Gorman
							per ann.					
Clitheroe	10,177	1878	none	3,826	...	3,826	131	no	...	4d.	75	Jas. Robinson
Coventry	42,111	1868	none	17,150	5,700	22,850	...	yes	...	1d.	543	
Darlington	...	1884	none	...	...	...	...	yes	...	1d.	...	F. Burgoyne
Darlaston	...	1877	none	2,396	...	2,396	35	yes	...	1d.	92	S. Stephens
Derby	87,000	1871	none	14,000	6,000	20,000	712	yes	1,000	1d.	1,400	Henry Allpass
Devonport	48,939	1882	none	8,895	350	9,245	...	yes	...	1d.	654	— Rowe
Dudley	46,252	1884	two	...	...	8,000	200	yes	300	1d.	500	C. F. Mackinain

Doncaster	...	22,000	1869	none	11,480	2,320	13,800	200	yes	...	1d.	390	W. E. Williams
Exeter	...	37,608	1870	none	9,488	3,165	12,653	...	yes	...	1d.	787	
Folkestone	...	18,822	1878	none	4,146	324	4,470	...	yes	...	2	223	George Hills
Gateshead-on-Tyne	...	73,000	1880	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	762	— Elliott
Halifax	...	76,000	1882	none	24,725	2,443	27,168	404	yes	1,000	1d.	1,080	J. Reed Welch
Handsworth	...	22,897	1880	none	6,515	870	7,385	202	yes	270	1d.	19	John W. Roberts
Hanley	...	20,000	1872	none	5,027	4,789	9,816	...	yes	500	1d.	396	— Chapman
Hereford	...	9,000	1856	none	1,995	774	2,769	50	yes	100	1d.	116	Ernest Lawrence
Hertford	...	22,979	1874	none	7,347	420	7,767	420	yes	300	1d.	315	Jas. Leach
Hucknall	...	51,000	1853	none	4,500	...	4,500	...	yes	..	1d.	795	
Ipswich	...	24,270	1881	one	3,545	...	3,545	120	yes	230	1d.	240	Alfred Penny
Kidderminster	...	22,974	1857	none	9,134	3,596	12,730	160	yes	850	1d.	545	D. B. Grant
Leamington	...	309,126	1868	twenty-two	95,528	32,578	128,106	very large	yes	...	1d.	4,745	James Yates
Leeds	...	31,238	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Wm. Hall
Leek ³	...	122,376	1871	one	19,435	7,793	27,228	747	yes	1,200	1d.	868	Edward C. Lings
Leicester	...	8,360	1874	none	3,000	...	3,000	50 per week	yes	...	1d.	100	J. P. Roberts
Lichfield	...	552,508	1852	two, and four reading-rooms	45,460	86,340	131,800	4,747	yes	...	1d.	12,502	Peter Cowell
Loughboro'	...	...	1885	none	3,000	...	3,000	...	yes	...	1d.	...	Z. Moon
Macclesfield	...	37,514	1876	none	15,000	...	15,000	180	yes	325	1d.	327	J. Hully
Madeley	...	29,860	1858	none	20,000	...	20,000	...	no	...	1d.	703	E. Hartlett
Maidstone	...	341,414	1852	six	96,493	75,997	172,490	...	yes	...	1d.	11,100	Chas. W. Sutton
Manchester	...	55,288	1871	none	11,004	1,806	12,810	7,821	yes	1,100	1d.	866	W. Sterzel
Middlesboro'	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	monthly	...	...	...	...	...

¹ Now forming.

² Alternately 1d. and 1d.

³ Not yet under Free Libraries Act.

STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES *Continued.*

Town.	Population.	When Opened.	Number of Branches.	No. of Vols.		Total.	Average daily Issue. Lending and Reference Departments.	If News-room attached to Chief Library and Branches.	Daily average No. of Visitors.	What amount in £ is levied.	Gross amount raised by Rate.	Librarian.
				Lending.	Reference.							
Newark - on - Trent	14,300	1885	none	4,560	440	5,000	200	yes	150	1d.	£ 200	G. G. Killingley
Newcastle - on - Tyne	145,228	1884	three news-rooms	27,774	27,242	55,016	1,046	yes	2,000	1d.	2,800	W. J. Haggerston
Newcastle - under-Lyme	...	1885										
Newport, Mon.	35,382	1870	one	9,000	4,000	13,000	300	yes	3,000	1d.	725	James Matthews
Northampton	52,000	1877	none	16,000	3,750	19,500	126	yes	780	1d.	686	Thos. J. George
Northwich ...	12,246	1885	none	6,000	1,000	7,000	250	yes	400	1d.	150	Geo. Catlin
Norwich ...	90,000	1857	none	8,089	1,382	9,471	...	yes	...	1d.	1,068	G. Easton
Nottingham ...	220,000	1868	two central, three branches, nine reading-rooms	29,955	15,365	20,407	1,102	yes	4,000	1d.	3,000	J. Potter Briscoe
Oldham ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	A. Berry
Over Darwen...	29,000	1871	none	8,500	2,100	10,600	86	yes	...	1d.	350	E. Neville
Oxford ...	40,000	1855	none	3,250	6,000	9,000	75	yes	1,000	...	1	T. Harwood
Penrith ...	9,000	1883	none	3,888	563	4,451	...	yes	...	1d.	20	

Plymouth	...	75,000	1882	none	12,000	6,000	18,000	...	yes	...	1d.	787	W. H. K. Wright
Poole ²	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	R. Miller
Portsmouth	...	...	1883	none	12,000	2,000	14,000	1,130	yes	2,000	1d.	1,122	T. D. A. Jewers
Preston	...	100,000	1880	none	13,000	1,000	14,000	352	yes	1,500	1d.	1,100	W. S. Bramwell
Reading	...	4,500	1882	none	11,500	2,500	14,000	370	yes	2,000	1d.	800	W. H. Greenbough
Runcorn	...	15,000	1882	none	2,367	749	3,116	103	yes	100	1d.	173	J. D. Jones
Rochdale	...	68,865	1872	none	27,149	9,865	38,105	...	yes	...	1d.	900	Geo. Hanson
Rotherham	...	35,547	1881	none	...	...	7,200	200	yes	...	1d.	561	Jno. Ridal
Salford	...	197,140	1855	three	40,600	38,000	78,600	...	yes	...	1d.	3,634	— Plant
Sheffield	...	284,508	1855	three	65,169	10,122	75,291	1,442	yes	...	1d.	4,300	Thomas Hurst
Shrewsbury	...	26,478	1885										
Sunderland	...	121,117	1860	none	...	...	12,000	360	yes	600	1d.	1,760	James Gibson
Southport	...	35,000	1875	one	18,025	1,775	14,800	303	yes	908	1d.	883	Thos. Newman
South Shields	...	56,875	1873	one	10,841	4,550	15,391	315	yes	1,000	1d.	800	Lawrence Inkester
Smethwick	...	25,076	1877	one R. R.	5,400	331	5,731	178	yes	250	1d.	340	Joseph Bailey
Stafford	...	20,000	1882	none	4,036	1,066	5,102	136	yes	700	1d.	240	C. J. Calvert
Stockport	...	59,544	1875	none	12,475	6,741	19,216	332	yes	632	1d.	844	J. D. Buckland
Stockton - on -	...	50,000	1877	none	5,808	...	5,808	...	yes	...	1d.	619	— Wright
Tees	...	...	...							
St. Albans	...	10,930	1883	none	4,000	200	4,200	50	yes	100	1d.	132	Herbert Slade
St. Helens	...	60,000	1877	none	9,166	2,129	11,295	250	yes	517	1d.	700	A. Lancaster
Stoke-on-Trent	...	19,900	1876	none	6,348	1,376	7,724	128	yes	268	1d.	270	Alfred Caddie
Tamworth	...	4,888	1882	none	2,500	...	2,500	35	yes	80	1d.	40	Fred. Hughes
Tipton	...	...	...							
Tonbridge	...	9,400	1882	none	3,967	305	4,272	...	yes	...	1d.	135	G. F. Presswell
Torkard	...	...	...							
Truro	...	...	...							
Tynemouth	...	42,121	1869	one	18,125	3,787	18,125	462	yes	...	1d.	700	Geo. Tidey
Walsall	...	58,795	1859	one	12,449	...	12,449	244	yes	...	1d.	520	Alfred Morgan

¹ Expenses paid out of District Rate.

² Negotiations now pending.

³ 1,091 boys.

STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES—Continued.

Town.	Population.	When Opened.	Number of Branches.	No. of Vols.		Total.	Average Daily Issue. Lending and Reference Departments.	If Newsroom attached to Chief Library and Branches.	Daily average No. of Visitors.	What amount in £ is levied.	Gross amount raised by Rate.	Librarian.
				Lending.	Reference.							
Warrington ...	45,000	1848	none	10,000	10,000	20,000	104	yes	150	1d.	533	Charley Madeley
Watford ..	12,073	1871	none	8,022	...	8,022	40	yes	80	1d.	240	John Woolman
Warminster ...									...	...	150	Thos. Haynes
Warwick ...	11,800	1866	none	8,357	857	9,214	73	yes	...	3d.	150	
Willenhall ...									...	1d.	1,098	S. Smith
Worcester ...	33,956	1881	none	8,500	8,000	16,500	...	yes	1,200	1d.	301	Thos. Stanley
Wednesbury...	24,564	1878	none	7,000	2,000	9,000	271	yes	400	1d.	614	David Dickinson
West Brom- wich	59,500	1874	none	10,965	2,386	13,351	218	yes	1,000	1d.	620	H. T. Folkhard
Wigan ...	50,000	1878	none	10,000	20,000	30,000	500	yes	...	1d.	342	J. T. Burchett
Winchester ...	...	1850	none	1,700	1,300	3,000	18	yes	1,000	1d.	875	John Elliott
Wolverham- ton	75,766	1869	none	22,534	4,337	26,871	225	yes	...	1d.		

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Ealing	...	15,764	1883	none	4,351	748	5,099	400	yes	350	1d.	475 Thos. Bonner
Kingston - on - Thames	...	20,648	1882	none	5,129	941	6,070	203	yes	417	1d.	350 Charles Baxter
Richmond	...	19,068	1881	none	7,567	4,042	11,609	350	yes	1,000	1d.	615 Frank Pacy
Twickenham	...	12,479	1882	none	5,695	...	5,695	197	yes	277	1d.	320 C. S. D. Rabbitt
Westminster...	...	59,926	1857	one	18,585	...	18,585	407	yes	1,510	1d.	1,425 Henry E. Poole
Wandsworth	...	31,000	1885	none	5,000	2,000	7,000	360	yes	1,000	1d.	740 A. Cotgreave
Wimbledon	...											

WALES.

Aberystwith	...	7,133	1874	none	2,472	18	2,490	...	yes	40	1d.	277
Bangor	...	9,290	1873	none	1,100	60	1,160	...	yes	50	1d.	123
Cardiff	...	86,634	1861	none	10,000	12,000	22,000	90,000 in one year.	yes	800	1d.	1,734 John Ballinger
Swansea	...	74,988	1870	three	7,625	18,842	26,467	471	yes	2,500	1d.	1,089 S. E. Thompson
Wrexham	...	10,928	1879	none	600	...	600	...	yes	305	1d.	175 R. Gough

SCOTLAND.

Airdrie	...	13,363	1853	none	7,000	...	7,000	67	yes	96	1d.	115 Willm. Lithgow
Dumbarton	...	13,782	1881	none	2,700	...	2,700	53	yes	130	1d.	198 W. Simpson
Dundee	...	140,063	1869	none	34,124	12,275	46,399	940	yes	500	1d.	2,447 J. Maclauchlan
Dunfermline...	...	19,915	1883	none	10,322	1,950	12,272	...	yes	...	1d.	... — Peebles
Forfar	...	12,818	1870	none	5,209	255	5,464	36	no	...	1d.	125 Wm. Grant

STATISTICS OF FREE LIBRARIES—Continued.

Town.	Population.	When opened.	Number of Branches.	No. of Vols.		Total.	Average daily Issue. Lending and Reference Departments.	If Newsroom attached to Chief Library and Branches.	Daily average No. of Visitors.	What amount in £ is levied.	Gross amount raised by Rate.	Librarian.
				Lending.	Reference.							
Galashiels	15,330	1874	none	5,620	180	5,800	66	yes	...	1d.	£227	Mrs. Dick
Hawick	16,184	1879	none	4,800	4,000	8,800	100	no	...	1d.	200	Mrs. M. L. Elliott
Huntley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inverness	17,385	1883	none	5,707	985	6,692	...	yes	...	1d.	355	...
Paisley	56,642	1871	none	15,000	5,300	20,300	...	yes	...	1d.	1,428	...
Thurso	...	1875	none	3,045	...	3,045	...	no	...	1d.	40	J. Campbell
IRELAND.												
Belfast ¹	220,000											
Coleraine ²	6,694											
Dublin	249,602											
Dundalk	11,913	1858	none	6,000	...	6,000	...	yes	...	1d.	130	
Kingstown	18,586	1884	none	300	...	300	...	yes	80	...	100	M. Connell
Sligo ...	10,808	1880	none	1,500	...	1,500	...	yes	150	...	don.	David Saultry

¹ Now building.

² Not yet put in force.

These returns show the number in English counties as follows, not including branches:—

				Population, 18 81.
Berkshire	..	1	..	247,892
Cambridge	..	1	..	191,114
Cheshire	..	6	..	622,365
Cumberland	..	1	..	250,647
Derbyshire	..	2	..	386,514
Devonshire	..	4	..	608,400
Durham	..	5	..	875,166
Gloucestershire	..	2	..	525,167
Hereford	..	1	..	118,147
Hampshire	..	1	..	575,409
Herts	..	3	..	202,375
Kent .. ..	..	4	..	708,527
Lancashire	..	19	..	3,485,819
Leicestershire	..	2	..	326,641
Monmouthshire	..	1	..	234,332
Norfolk .. ..	..	1	..	437,711
Northamptonshire		1	..	277,035
Northumberland		2	..	434,086
Notts .. ..	..	2	..	438,642
Oxon .. ..	..	1	..	181,570
Salop .. ..	..	2	..	265,890
Somerset	..	1	..	490,602
Southampton	..	1	..	575,409
Staffordshire	..	19	..	1,006,758
Suffolk .. ..	..	1	..	353,545
Warwickshire	..	5	..	730,531
Wiltshire	..	1	..	248,664
Worcestershire	..	2	..	383,011
Yorks .. ..	..	7	..	2,894,759

It will be seen from this, how much there is yet to be done. I intended giving a list of towns over 10,000 inhabitants, with the rateable value of each town, where the Act has not been adopted, but find on perusing the blue books giving this information that it would make quite a book of itself.

With regard to the statistics of Free Libraries, the Council of the Library Association reported at Plymouth that no progress has been made with the Free Libraries Bill which has been before Parliament since 1882. In their last report reference was made to the return of places possessing libraries established under the Acts, moved for on the 8th of May, 1884, by Mr. Anderson, M.P. This return was presented in March last, and in May was issued to the public. Although this document brings together a good deal of information it is unfortunately marked by a great want of completeness. While it records the names of 115 places in which the Acts have been adopted, it omits no less than fourteen places in which the Acts have also been adopted. These places are as follows:—Bootle, Darlaston, Hanley, Hucknall Torkard, Madeley, Oldham, Tipton, Warminster, Willenhall, Wimbledon, and Winchester. During the past year four other places have adopted the Acts, viz., Loughborough, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Poole, and Truro. They have been rejected at Bournemouth, Glasgow, and Huddersfield. The total number of places in the three kingdoms, in which the Acts have been adopted, is thus increased to 133.

It is possible that the compilers of the parliamentary return have found, what has been my own experience,

that librarians have not in all cases filled up the form for particulars which I have sent to every Free Library in the United Kingdom. Many have courteously replied, giving much encouragement in the work I had undertaken, others have required a second application, and some have not answered at all. Hence the incompleteness of my own statistics. This, however, I shall endeavour to rectify in future issues of my book.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT (IRELAND), 1855.

18 AND 19 VICTORIA, CAP. XL.

The earlier Acts having been repealed are not reprinted here.

An Act for further promoting the Establishment of Free Public Libraries and Museums in *Ireland*.

[26th June, 1855.]

“ WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, and to give greater facilities for the Establishment in *Ireland* of free Public Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art ; ”
Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows :

I. 16 and 17 *Vict.*, c. 101, and Sec. 99 of 17 and 18 *Vict.*, c. 103, *Repealed*.—The said Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter

One hundred and one, and Section Ninety-nine of the Towns Improvement Act (*Ireland*), 1854, are hereby repealed; but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of either of such Acts; and all Public Libraries and Museums established in *Ireland* under either of those Acts shall be considered as having been established under this Act.

II. *Short Title*.—In citing this Act for any purpose whatever it shall be sufficient to use the expression “The Public Libraries Act (*Ireland*), 1855.”

III. *Interpretation of Terms*.—In the Construction and for the Purposes of this Act (if not inconsistent with the Context or Subject Matter) the following Terms shall have the respective Meanings hereinafter assigned to them; that is to say, “Town” shall mean and include any City, Borough, Town, or Place in which Commissioners, Trustees, or other Persons have been or shall be elected or appointed under the Act of the Ninth Year of King *George* the Fourth, Chapter Eighty-two, or the “Towns Improvement Act (*Ireland*), 1854,” or any Local or other Act or Acts for paving, flagging, lighting, watching, cleansing, or otherwise improving any City, Borough, Town, or Place, for the Execution of any such Act or Acts, or superintending the Execution thereof, and in which there shall not be a Town Council or other such Body elected under the Act of the Third and Fourth Year of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and eight, or any other Charter granted in pursuance of such Act or any Act passed for the Amendment thereof; “Town Commissioners” shall mean the Commissioners, Trustees, or other Persons for

the Time being elected or appointed under any such first-mentioned Acts as aforesaid; "Town Fund" shall mean the Town Fund, or the Rates of Property vested in and under the Control and Direction of any Town Commissioners, and applicable to the Purposes of any such Acts; "Town Rate" shall mean the Rate or Rates authorized to be levied by any such Town Commissioners; "Mayor" shall include Lord Mayor; "Clerk" shall mean, as regards an incorporated Borough, the Town Clerk of such Borough, and as regards a Town in which there shall be Town Commissioners, the Clerk appointed by the Town Commissioners; "Householders" shall mean a Male Occupier of a Dwelling House, or of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within any Town or incorporated Borough, and entitled for the Time being to vote at Elections of Commissioners, Aldermen, or Councillors in any such Town or Borough.

IV. *Act may be adopted in any Incorporated Borough or any Town.*—The Council or Board of Municipal Commissioners of any incorporated Borough in *Ireland* regulated under the said Act of the Third and Fourth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and eight, or any Charter granted in pursuance of such Act, or any Act passed for the Amendment thereof, the Population of which according to the then last Census thereof shall exceed Five thousand Persons, or the Town Commissioners of any Town in *Ireland* having such a Population as aforesaid, may, if they think fit, appoint a Time for a Public Meeting of the Householders of the Borough or Town, as the case may be, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the

Borough or Town, and Ten Days' Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Borough or Town, and also by advertising the same in one or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the Borough or Town Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting, and if at such Meeting Two-thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the Borough or Town, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such Borough or Town, as the case may be, and shall be carried into execution, in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the Municipal Corporation of such Borough, or relating to such Town.

V. *Expenses of carrying Act into Execution to be paid out of the Fund of the Borough or Town.*—The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in such Borough, shall be paid out of the Borough Fund, and in such Town out of the Town Fund; and the Council or Board of Municipal Commissioners, or Town Commissioners, may levy as part of the Borough Rate or Town Rate, as the case may be, or by a separate Rate to be assessed and recovered in like manner as the Borough Rate or Town Rate, all Monies from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and district accounts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the Council with reference to the Execution of this Act.

VI. *Accounts to be Audited, and sent to Lord Lieutenant, etc. ; to be deposited and open to Inspection.*—Such accounts shall be audited in the same way as all other Accounts of such Borough or Town respectively are audited, and the said Council or Board or Town Commissioners shall within One Month after the same shall have been audited, transmit to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the Time being a true and correct Copy of such Accounts; and shall also within the Time aforesaid cause a Copy of such Accounts to be deposited in the Office of the Clerk; and the said Accounts shall be open to the Inspection of all Householders of such Borough or Town respectively, and Copies thereof shall be delivered to any such Householder applying for the same, upon Payment of a reasonable Charge for the same, to be fixed by the Council or Board or Town Commissioners, as the case may be.

VII. *Incorporation of Commissioners of Towns for the Purposes of this Act.*—The Town Commissioners of every Town adopting this Act shall for the Purposes thereof be a Body Corporate, with perpetual Succession, by the Name of “ The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the Town of _____ in the County of _____,” and by that Name may sue and be sued, and hold and dispose of Lands, and use a Common Seal.

VIII. *Rate not to exceed One Penny in the Pound, etc.*—The Amount of the Rate to be levied in any Borough or Town in any One Year for the purposes of this Act shall not exceed the sum of one Penny in the Pound,

and in any such Borough shall be assessed, raised, collected, and levied in the same manner as the Borough Rate, and in any such Town shall be assessed, raised, and collected in the same manner as the Town Rate.

IX. *Lands, etc., may be appropriated, purchased, or rented for the Purposes of this Act.*—The Council or Board of any Borough and the Town Commissioners of any Town respectively may from Time to Time, with the approval of Her Majesty's Treasury, appropriate for the purposes of this Act any Lands vested, as the case may be, in a Borough in the Mayor, Alderman, and Burgesses, and in a Town in the Town Commissioners, and may also, with such approval, purchase or rent any Lands or any suitable Buildings, and the Council or Board and Town Commissioners respectively may, upon any Lands so appropriated, purchased, or rented respectively, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries or Museums, or Schools of Science and Art, or both, and may apply, take down, alter, and extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and rebuild, repair, and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply the same respectively, with all requisite Furniture, Fittings, and Conveniences.

X. *Provisions of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 18, Incorporated.*—The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, shall be incorporated with this Act; but the Council or Board and Commissioners respectively shall not purchase or take any Lands otherwise than by Agreement.

XI. *Lands, etc., may be Sold or Exchanged.*—The Council or Board and Commissioners aforesaid respectively may, with the like approval as is required for the

Purchase of Lands, sell any Lands vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, or Board, or Town Commissioners respectively for the purposes of this Act, or exchange the same for any Lands better adapted for the Purposes; and the Monies to arise from such Sale, or to be received for Equality of Exchange, or a sufficient Part thereof, shall be applied in or towards the Purchase of other Lands better adapted for such Purposes.

XII. *General Management to be vested in Council or Board, or Town Commissioners.*—The General Management, Regulation, and Control of such Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art shall be, as to any Borough, vested in and exercised by the Council or Board, and as to any Town, in and by the Town Commissioners, or such Committee as they respectively may from Time to Time appoint, who may from Time to Time purchase and provide the necessary Fuel, Lighting, and other similar matters, Books, Newspapers, Maps, and Specimens of Art and Science for the Use of the Library or Museum, and cause the same to be bound or repaired, when necessary, and appoint salaried Officers and Servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and Use of the Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art, and for the Admission of Visitors.

XIII. *In whom Property of Library, etc., to be vested.*—The Lands and Buildings so to be appropriated, purchased, or rented as aforesaid, and all other Real and Personal Property whatever presented to or purchased for any Library or Museum or School of

Science and Art established under this Act, shall be vested, in the case of a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in the case of a Town, in the Town Commissioners.

XIV. *In case First Meeting decide not to adopt Act.*—If any Meeting called as hereinbefore provided to consider as to the Adoption of this Act for any Borough or Town shall determine against such adoption, no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be held for the space of One Year at least from the Time of holding the previous Meeting.

XV. *Museums to be Free.*—The Admission to all Libraries and Museums established under this Act shall be open to the Public free of all charge.

XVI. *This Act to be incorporated with Local Acts in force in Borough or Town.*—Upon the coming into operation of this Act in any Borough, it shall, as regards such Borough, be incorporated with the said Act of the Third and Fourth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and eight, and upon the coming into operation of this Act in any Town, it shall, as regards such Town, be incorporated with the Act or Acts in force therein relating to the Powers and Duties of the Town Commissioners.

“PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1855” [ENGLAND].

18 AND 19 VICTORIÆ, CAP. LXX.

An Act for further promoting the Establishment of Free Public Libraries and Museums in Municipal Towns, and for extending it to Towns governed under Local Improvement Acts, and to Parishes.

[30th July, 1855.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and extend the Public Libraries Act, 1850 : Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

I. 13 and 14 Vict., c. 65, *Repealed*.—The Public Libraries Act, 1850, is hereby repealed; but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of the same Act, and all Libraries and Museums established under that Act or the Act thereby repealed shall be considered as having been established under this Act, and the Council of any Borough which may have adopted the said Act of One thousand eight hundred and fifty, or established a Museum under the Act thereby repealed, shall have and may use and exercise all the Benefits, Privileges, and Powers given by this Act; and all Monies which have been borrowed by virtue of the said repealed Acts or either of them, and still remaining unpaid, and the

Interest thereof shall be charged on the Borough Rates, or a Rate to be assessed and recovered in the like manner as a Borough Rate to be made by virtue of this Act.

II. *Short Title of Act.*—In citing this Act for any Purposes whatever, it shall be sufficient to use the Expression “The Public Libraries Act, 1855.”

III. *Interpretation of Terms.*—In the construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions shall, unless there be something in the Subject or Context repugnant to such Construction, have the following Meanings assigned to them respectively; that is to say, “Parish” shall mean every Place maintaining its own Poor; “Vestry” shall mean the Inhabitants of the Parish lawfully assembled in Vestry, or for any of the Purposes for which Vestries are holden, except in those Parishes in which there is a Select Vestry elected under the Act of the Fifty-ninth Year of King *George* the Third, Chapter Twelve, or under the Act of the First and Second Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Sixty, or under the provisions of any Local Act of Parliament for the Government of any Parish by Vestries, in which Parishes it shall mean such Select Vestry, and shall also mean any Body of Persons, by whatever Name distinguished, acting by virtue of any Act of Parliament, Prescription, Custom or otherwise, as or instead of a Vestry or Select Vestry; “Ratepayers” shall mean all Persons for the Time being assessed to Rates for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish; “Overseers of the Poor” shall mean also any Persons authorized and required to make and collect the Rate

for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish, and acting instead of Overseers of the Poor; "Board" shall mean the Commissioners, Trustees, or other Body of Persons by whatever Name distinguished, for the Time being in Office and acting in the execution of any Improvement Act, being an Act for draining, cleansing, paving, lighting, watching, or otherwise improving a Place, or for any of those Purposes; "Improvement Rates" shall mean the Rates, Tolls, Rents, Income, and other Monies whatsoever which, under the Provisions of any such Improvement Act, shall be applicable for the general purposes of such Act.

IV. *Town Council of certain Boroughs may adopt this Act if determined by Inhabitants.*—The Mayor of any Municipal Borough the Population of which, according to the then last Census thereof, shall exceed Five Thousand Persons, shall, on the Request of the Town Council, convene a Public Meeting of the Burgesses of the Borough, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the Municipal Borough, and Ten Days' Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Borough, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the Borough, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two-thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the Borough, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such Borough,

and shall be carried into execution in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the Municipal Corporation of such Borough: Provided always, that the Mayor, or, in his absence, the Chairman of the Meeting, shall cause a Minute to be made of the Resolutions of the Meeting, and shall sign the same; and the Resolutions so signed shall be conclusive Evidence that the Meeting was duly convened, and the Vote thereat duly taken, and that the Minute contains a true Account of the Proceedings thereat.

V. Expenses of carrying Act into Execution in a Borough to be paid out of the Borough Fund.—The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in such Borough, may be paid out of the Borough Fund, and the Council may levy by a separate Rate, to be called a Library Rate, to be made and recoverable in the manner hereinafter provided, all Monies from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and distinct Accounts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the Council with reference to the Execution of this Act.

VI. Board of any District within Limits of any Improvement Act may adopt this Act if determined by Inhabitants.—The Board of any District, being a Place within the Limits of any Improvement Act, and having such a Population as aforesaid, shall, upon the Requisition in Writing of at least Ten Persons assessed to and paying the Improvement Rate, appoint a Time not less than Ten Days nor more than Twenty Days from the

Time of receiving such Requisition for a Public Meeting of the Persons assessed to and paying such Rate in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for such District, and Ten Days' Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of such Meeting shall be given, by fixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the District, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the District, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two-thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the District, the same shall henceforth take effect, and come into operation in such District, and shall be carried into effect according to the Laws for the Time being in force relating to such Board.

VII. *Expenses of carrying Act into Execution to be charged on Improvement Rate.*—The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into Execution in any such District, shall be paid out of the Improvement Rate, and the Board may levy as Part of the Improvement Rate, or by a separate Rate to be assessed and recovered in like manner as an Improvement Rate, such Sums of Money as shall be from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and the Board shall keep distinct Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, Credits and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, which Accounts shall be audited in the same Way as Accounts are directed to be audited under the Improvement Act.

VIII. *Certain Parishes may adopt this Act with the Consent of Two-thirds of the Ratepayers.—The Vestry to appoint Commissioners for carrying the Act into execution, who shall be a Body Corporate.*—Upon the Requisition in Writing of at least Ten Ratepayers of any Parish having such a Population as aforesaid, the Overseers of the Poor shall appoint a Time, not less than Ten Days nor more than Twenty Days from the Time of receiving such requisition, for a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the Parish; and Ten Days' Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Parish, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the Parish, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two-thirds of the Ratepayers then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for such Parish, the same shall come into operation in such Parish, and the Vestry shall forthwith appoint not less than Three nor more than Nine Ratepayers Commissioners for carrying the Act into execution, who shall be a Body Corporate by the Name of "The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the Parish of _____ in the County of _____," and by that name may sue and be sued, and hold and dispose of Lands, and use a Common Seal: Provided always, that in any Parish where there shall not be a greater Population than Eight thousand Inhabitants by the then last Census,

it shall be lawful for any Ten Ratepayers to deliver a Requisition by them signed, and describing their Place of Residence, to the Overseers or One of the Overseers of the said Parish, requiring the Votes of the Ratepayers at such Meeting to be taken according to the Provisions of the Act passed in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, Chapter Sixty-nine, and the Votes at such Meeting shall thereupon be taken according to the Provisions of the said last-mentioned Act of Parliament, and not otherwise.

IX. *One-third of such Commissioners to go out of Office yearly and others to be appointed, &c.*—At the Termination of every Year (the Year being reckoned from and exclusive of the Day of the First Appointment of Commissioners) a Meeting of the Vestry shall be held, at which Meeting One-third, or as nearly as may be One-third of the Commissioners, to be determined by Ballot, shall go out of Office, and the Vestry shall appoint other Commissioners in their Place, but the outgoing Commissioners may be re-elected; and the Vestry shall fill up every Vacancy among the Commissioners, whether occurring by Death, Resignation, or otherwise, as soon as possible after the same occurs.

X. *General and Special Meetings of Commissioners.*—The Commissioners shall meet at least once in every Calendar-Month, and at such other Times as they think fit, at the Public Library or Museum or some other convenient Place; and any one Commissioner may summon a Special Meeting of the Commissioners by giving Three clear Days' Notice in Writing to each

Commissioner, specifying therein the Purpose for which the Meeting is called ; and no Business shall be transacted at any Meeting of the Commissioners unless at least Two Commissioners shall be present.

XI. *Minutes of Proceedings of Commissioners to be entered in Books.*—All Orders and Proceedings of the Commissioners shall be entered in Books to be kept by them for that Purpose, and shall be signed by the Commissioners or any Two of them ; and all such Orders and Proceedings so entered and purporting to be so signed shall be deemed to be original Orders and Proceedings, and such Books may be produced and read as Evidence of all such Orders and Proceedings upon any judicial Proceeding whatsoever.

XII. *Distinct Accounts to be kept by Commissioners, and duly Audited.*—The Commissioners shall keep distinct and regular Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, Credits, and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, which Accounts shall be audited yearly by the Poor-Law Auditor, if the Accounts of the Poor-Rate Expenditure of the Parish be audited by a Poor-Law Auditor, but if not so audited then by Two Auditors not being Commissioners, who shall be yearly appointed by the Vestry, and the Auditor or Auditors shall report thereon, but such Report shall be laid before the Vestry by the Commissioners.

XIII. *Expenses of executing Act in any Parish to be paid out of Poor Rate.*—The Expenses of calling and holding the Meeting of the Ratepayers, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carry-

ing this Act into execution in any Parish, to such Amount as shall be from Time to Time sanctioned by the Vestry, shall be paid out of a Rate to be made and recovered in like Manner as a Poor Rate, except that every person occupying Lands used as Arable, Meadow, or Pasture Ground only, or as Woodlands, or Market Gardens or Nursery Grounds, shall be rated in respect of the same in the Proportion of One-third Part only of the full net annual Value thereof respectively; the Vestry to be called for the Purpose of sanctioning the Amount shall be convened in the Manner usual in the Parish; the Amount for the Time being proposed to be raised for such Expenses shall be expressed in the Notice convening the Vestry, and shall be paid, according to the Order of the Vestry, to such Person as shall be appointed by the Commissioners to receive the same: Provided always, that in the Notices requiring the Payment of the Rate there shall be stated the Proportion which the Amount to be thereby raised for the Purposes of this Act shall bear to the total Amount of the Rate.

XIV. *Vestries of Two or more Neighbouring Parishes may adopt the Act.*—The Vestries of any Two or more neighbouring Parishes having according to the then last Census an aggregate Population exceeding Five Thousand Persons may adopt this Act, in like manner as if the Population of each of those Parishes according to the then last Census exceeded Five Thousand, and may concur in carrying the same into execution in such Parishes for such Time as they shall mutually agree: and such Vestries may decide that a Public Library or

Museum, or both, shall be erected in any One of such Parishes, and that the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution with reference to the same shall be borne by such Parishes in such Proportions as such Vestries shall mutually approve; the Proportion for each of such Parishes of such Expenses shall be paid out of the Monies to be raised for the Relief of the Poor of the same respective Parishes accordingly; but no more than Three Commissioners shall be appointed for each Parish; and the Commissioners so appointed for each of such Parishes shall in the Management of the said Public Library and Museum form One Body of Commissioners, and shall act accordingly in the execution of this Act; and the Accounts of the Commissioners shall be examined and reported on by the Auditor or Auditors of such Parishes; and the surplus Money at the Disposal as aforesaid of such Commissioners shall be paid to the Overseers of such Parishes respectively, in the Proportion in which such Parishes shall be liable to such Expenses.

XV. Rates levied not to exceed One Penny in the Pound.—Accounts of Board and Commissioners to be open to Inspection.—The Amount of the Rate to be levied in any Borough, District, or Parish in any One Year for the Purposes of this Act shall not exceed the Sum of One Penny in the Pound; and for the Purposes of the Library Rate all the Clauses of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to the Manner of making Rates, to the Appeal to be made against any Rate, and to the Recovery of Rates, shall be incorporated with this Act; and whenever the

Words "Special Act" occur in the Act so incorporated they shall mean "The Public Libraries Act, 1855"; the Accounts of the said Board and Commissioners respectively with reference to the Execution of this Act shall at all reasonable Times be open, without Charge, to the Inspection of every Person rated to the Improvement Rate or to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish, as the case may be, who may make Copies of or Extracts from such Accounts, without paying for the same; and in case the Board or the Commissioners, or any of them respectively, or any of their respective Officers or Servants having the Custody of such Accounts, shall not permit the same Accounts to be inspected, or Copies of or Extracts from the same to be made, every Person so offending shall for every such offence forfeit any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.

XVI. *Power to Council, &c., to borrow on Mortgage.*—For carrying this Act into execution the Council, Board, or Commissioners respectively may, with the Approval of Her Majesty's Treasury (and as to the Commissioners, with the Sanction also of the Vestry and the Poor Law Board) from Time to Time borrow at Interest on the Security of a Mortgage or Bond of the Borough Fund, or of the Rates levied in Pursuance of this Act, such Sums of Money as may be by them respectively required; and the Commissioners for carrying into execution the Act of the Ninth and Tenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Eighty, may from Time to Time advance and lend any such sums of Money.

XVII. *Provisions of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 16, as to*

Borrowing, extended to this Act.—The Clauses and Provisions of “The Companies Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845,” with respect to the borrowing of Money on Mortgage or Bond, and the Accountability of Officers, and the Recovery of Damages and Penalties, so far as such Provisions may respectively be applicable to the Purposes of this Act, shall be respectively incorporated with this Act.

XVIII. *Lands, &c., may be Appropriated, Purchased, or Rented for the Purposes of this Act.*—The Council of any Borough and the Board of any District respectively may from Time to Time, with the Approval of Her Majesty’s Treasury, appropriate for the Purposes of this Act any Lands vested, as the case may be, in a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in a District in the Board, and the Council, Board, and Commissioners respectively may also, with such Approval, purchase or rent any Lands or any suitable Buildings; and the Council and Board and Commissioners respectively may, upon any Lands so appropriated, purchased, or rented respectively, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries or Museums, or both, or for Schools for Science or Art, and may apply, take down, alter, and extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and rebuild, repair, and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply the same respectively with all requisite Furniture, Fittings, and Conveniences.

XIX. 8 and 9 Vict., c. 18, *incorporated.*—“The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845,” shall be incorporated with this Act; but the Council, Board, and

Commissioners respectively shall not purchase or take any Lands otherwise than by Agreement.

XX. *Lands, &c. may be Sold or Exchanged.*—The Council, Board, and Commissioners aforesaid respectively may, with the like Approval as is required for the Purchase of Lands, sell any Lands vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, or Board or Commissioners respectively, for the Purposes of this Act, or exchange the same for any Lands better adapted for the Purposes; and the Monies to arise from such Sale or to be received for Equality of Exchange, or a sufficient part thereof, shall be applied in or towards the Purchase of other Lands better adapted for such Purposes.

XXI. *General Management to be vested in Council, Board, or Commissioners.*—The general Management, Regulation, and Control of such Libraries and Museums, Schools for Science and Art, shall be, as to any Borough, vested in and exercised by the Council, and as to any District in and by the Board, and as to any Parish or Parishes in and by the Commissioners, or such Committee as such Council or Board may from Time to Time appoint, the Members whereof need not be Members of the Council or Board or be Commissioners, who may from Time to Time purchase and provide the necessary Fuel, Lighting, and other similar Matters, Books, Newspapers, Maps, and Specimens of Art and Science, for the Use of the Library or Museum, or School, and cause the same to be bound or repaired when necessary, and appoint salaried Officers and Servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and Use of the Libraries and

Museums, and Schools, and for the Admission of the Public.

XXII. *Property of Library, &c., to be vested in Council, &c.*—The Lands and Buildings so to be appropriated purchased, or rented as aforesaid, and all other Real and Personal Property whatever presented to or purchased for any Library or Museum established under this Act or School, shall be vested, in the Case of a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, in the Case of a District in the Board, and in the Case of a Parish or Parishes in the Commissioners.

XXIII. *If Meeting does not adopt Act, no other Meeting to be held for a Year.*—If any Meeting called as aforesaid to determine as to the Adoption of this Act, for any Borough, District, or Parish shall determine against the Adoption, no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be held for the Space of One Year at least from the time of holding the previous Meeting.

XXIV. *Act may be adopted in the City of London if Two-thirds of Persons rated to the Consolidated Rate, assembled at a Public Meeting, assent.*—The Lord Mayor of the City of London shall, on the Request of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, convene a Public Meeting in manner hereinbefore mentioned of all Persons rated and assessed to the Consolidated Rate in the City of London, in order to determine whether this Act should be adopted in the said City; and if at such Meeting Two-thirds of such Persons then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the City of London, the same shall henceforth take effect

and come into operation in the City of *London*, and shall be carried into execution in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the City of *London*: Provided always, that the Resolution of such Public Meeting, signed by the Lord Mayor, shall be reported to the said Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, in Common Council assembled, and entered on the Minutes thereof, and that such Entry shall be Evidence; the Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into Execution in the City of *London*, shall be paid out of the Consolidated Rate, and the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of *London* may levy a part of the Consolidated Rate, or, by a separate Rate to be assessed and recovered in like Manner as the Consolidated Rate all Monies from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses, and distinct Accounts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the said Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons with reference to the Execution of the Act.

XXV. *Museums to be Free.*—The Admission to all Libraries and Museums established under this Act shall be open to the Public free of all Charge.

XXVI. *Extent of Act.*—This Act shall not extend to *Ireland* or *Scotland*.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AMENDMENT ACT
(ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND), 1866.

29 AND 30 VICTORIÆ, CAP. CXIV.

An Act to amend the "Public Libraries Act."

[10th August, 1866.]

18 and 19 Vict., c. 95.—"WHEREAS it is expedient to amend 'The Public Libraries Act, 1855,' and to assimilate the Laws relating to Public Libraries in *England and Scotland*:" Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows :

1. *Towns Improvement Clauses Act not to apply to Boroughs.*—So much of the Section Fifteen of the said "Public Libraries Act, 1855," as incorporates with that Act certain Clauses of "The Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847," shall, so far as the same relates to or concerns Municipal Boroughs, be repealed.

2. *Part of Sec. 5 of recited Act repealed.—Expenses of executing Act in Boroughs to be paid out of Borough Fund.*—Section Five of the said Act, except so much thereof as relates to keeping distinct Accounts, shall be repealed ; and the Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether the said Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying the said Act into execution in any Municipal Borough, may be

paid out of the Borough Rate of such Borough, or by and out of a Rate to be made and recovered in such Borough, in like manner as a Borough Rate may be made and recovered therein, but the Amount so paid in such Borough in any One Year shall not exceed the sum of One Penny in the Pound upon the annual Value of the Property in such Borough rateable to a Borough Rate: Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall interfere with the Operation of the Act Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and eight, so far as it relates to the Collection of a Rate for a Public Library in the City of *Oxford*.

3. *Calling of Meeting in Boroughs*.—The Public Meeting mentioned in Section Four of the said “Public Libraries Act, 1855,” shall be called either on the Request of the Town Council, or on the Request in Writing of Ten Ratepayers residing in the Borough.

4. *Parishes adjoining a Borough, &c., may unite in adopting Act*.—Any Parish, of whatever Population, adjoining any Borough, District, or Parish which shall have adopted or shall contemplate the Adoption of the said “Public Libraries Act, 1855,” may, with the Consent of more than One-half of the Ratepayers thereof present at a Meeting to be convened in manner directed by the said Act with reference to Meetings of Ratepayers, and with the Consent also of the Town Council of such Borough, or the Board of such District, or the Commissioners of such Parish, as the Case may be, determine that such adjoining Parish shall for the Purposes of the said Act form part of such Borough, District, or Parish, and thereupon the Vestry of such

adjoining Parish shall forthwith appoint Three Rate-payers Commissioners for such Parish, One-third of whom shall go out of Office, and the vacancies be filled up as provided by the said Act with respect to the Commissioners of a Parish, and such Commissioners for the Time being shall for the Purposes of the said Act be considered as Part of such Town Council, Board, or Commissioners as the Case may be; and the Expenses of calling the Meeting, and the Proportion of the Expenses of such adjoining Parish of carrying the said Act into execution, shall be paid out of the Poor Rates thereof to such Person as the Commissioners of the said adjoining Parish shall appoint to receive the same.

5. *Majority for Adoption of Act.*—The Majority necessary to be obtained for the Adoption of the said Act or “The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1854,” shall be more than One-half of the Persons present at the Meeting, instead of Two-thirds of such Persons as now required.

6. *Act applicable whatever Population may be.*—“The Public Libraries Act (1855)” and “The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*) (1854)” shall be applicable to any Borough, District, or Parish or Burgh, of whatever Population.

7. *17 and 18 Vict., c. 64, ss. 6, 7, 8, repealed.*—So much of Section Six of “The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1854,” as authorizes the demanding of a Poll, and Sections Seven and Eight of the said Act, are hereby repealed.

8. *If Burgh declines Act, no further Meeting for a Year.*—If any Meeting called as provided by the said

last-mentioned Act shall determine against the Adoption of the Act in any Burgh, no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be held for the Space of One Year at least from the Time of holding the previous Meeting.

9. *Parts of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 17, extended 17 and 18 Vict., c. 64.*—The Clauses and Provisions of “The Company’s Clauses Consolidation (*Scotland*) Act (1845),” with respect to the borrowing of Money upon Mortgage or Bond, and the Accountability of Officers, and the Recovery of Damages and Penalties, so far as such Provisions may respectively be applicable to the Purposes of the said “Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*) (1854),” shall be respectively incorporated with that Act.

10. *A Library, &c., may be established in connection with any Museum, &c.*—Wherever a Public Museum or Library has been established under any Act relating to Public Libraries or Museums, or shall hereafter be established under either of the said before-mentioned Acts, a Public Library or Museum, as the Case may be, may at any Time be established in connection therewith without any further Proceedings being taken under the said Acts.

11. *Short Title.*—This Act may be cited as “The Public Libraries Amendment Act (*England and Scotland*), 1866,” and shall be taken to be Part of the said “Public Libraries Act, 1855,” and shall be construed accordingly.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT (SCOTLAND), 1867,
30 AND 31 VICTORIÆ, CAP. XXXVII.

An Act to amend and consolidate the Public Libraries
Acts (Scotland). [15th July, 1867.]

“WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and consolidate the Public Libraries Acts relating to *Scotland*, and to give greater facilities for the Formation and Establishment there of Public Libraries, Art Galleries, and Museums:”

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:—

I. 17 and 18 *Vict.*, c. 64, and so much of 29 and 30 *Vict.*, c. 114, as relates to *Scotland*, repealed.—The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1854, and so much of the Public Libraries Amendment Act (*England and Scotland*), 1866, as relates to *Scotland*, are hereby repealed, but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of these Acts or either of them, and all Public Libraries and Museums established in *Scotland* under these Acts or either of them shall be held as coming under the operation of this Act.

II. *Interpretation of Terms*.—In the Construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions shall have the Meanings hereby assigned, if not inconsistent with the Context or Subject Matter; that is to say,

The Expression “Burgh” shall mean a Royal Burgh

or a Burgh or Town to which Magistrates and Councils were provided by the Act of the Third and Fourth Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Seventy-seven.

The Word "District" shall mean a Burgh of Barony, a Burgh of Regality, or any other populous Place, not being a Royal Burgh or a Town or Burgh to which Magistrates and Councils were provided by the said Act of the Third and Fourth Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Seventy-seven, where any Local or General Police Act is in force.

The Word "Board" in Parishes shall mean the Parochial Board acting under the Powers and in execution of the Act of the Eighth and Ninth *Victoria*, Chapter Eighty-three; and in Districts it shall mean the Commissioners, Trustees, or other Body of Persons, by whatever Name distinguished, for the Time being in Office and acting in execution of any Special, Local, or General Police Act.

The Word "Householders" in all Burghs shall mean all Persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members of Parliament, but in Districts it shall mean all Persons assessed under and for the Purposes of any Local or General Police Act which may be in force therein; and in Parishes it shall mean all Rate-payers under the Act of the Eighth and Ninth *Victoria*, Chapter Eighty-three.

The Expression "Police Rates" shall mean the Rates, Tolls, Rents, Income, and other Monies whatsoever which under the Provisions of any Police Act shall be applicable for the General Purposes of such Act.

III. *Meeting to be called for considering the Adoption of this Act in any Burgh, District, or Parish.*—Upon the Requisition in Writing of the Magistrates and Council or of Ten Householders in any Burgh, District, or Parish, the Chief or Senior Magistrate of such Burgh, or in the case of a District or Parish, the Sheriff of the County or one of his Substitutes, shall, within Ten Days after the Receipt of such Requisition, convene a Meeting of Householders, and preside at the same for the Purpose of considering whether this Act shall be adopted for such Burgh, District, or Parish, such Meeting to be held in any convenient Place on a day not less than Twenty-one Days or more than Thirty Days after the Receipt of such Requisition; and Notice of the Time and Place of such Meeting shall be given by affixing the same upon the Doors of the Parish Churches within such Burgh, District, or Parish, and also by advertising the same in at least One Newspaper published or circulated within such Burgh, District, or Parish, not less than Seven Days preceding the Day of Meeting.

IV. *Act may be adopted at Meeting by a Majority, &c.*—If at such Meeting it shall be determined by a Majority of Householders present that the Provisions of this Act shall be adopted in such Burgh, District, or Parish, then the same shall from thenceforth come into operation therein; and the Chairman of the Meeting shall cause a Minute to be made of the Resolutions of the Meeting, and shall sign the same.

V. *Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in Burghs and Districts to be paid out of the Police Rates.*—

The Expenses incurred in calling and holding such Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution when adopted, shall, in the case of a Burgh or District, be paid out of the Police Rate, and the Magistrates and Council of such Burgh, or the Board of such District, shall yearly levy as part of the Police Rate, or by a separate Rate, to be made, levied, and recovered by the Magistrates and Council of such Burgh or the Board of such District in such and the like Manner, from the same Descriptions of Persons and Property, and with and under the like Powers, Provisions, and Exceptions as the General Assessments leviable under the Acts of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Thirty-three (in the Case of Burghs or Districts which on or before the First Day of *August*, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, had adopted in whole or in part the Act of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Thirty-three), and of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and one (in the case of all other Burghs or Districts), for Police and other Purposes, are authorized to be made, levied, and recovered, and as if such Magistrates and Council or the Board of such District were Commissioners elected under any of these Acts respectively, and the said Assessments were Part of the General Assessments authorized to be thereby made; and in the Case of a Parish the Board shall pay the Expenses aforesaid out of a Rate to be made, levied, and recovered in like Manner, and from the same Description of Persons and Property, and with and under the like Powers, Pro-

visions, and Exceptions, as the Poor Rate leviable under the Act of the Eighth and Ninth *Victoria*, Chapter Eighty-three: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the City of *Glasgow* or any other Place from levying a Rate for the Purposes of this Act, in conformity with the Provisions of any local Police Act which may for the Time being be in force in said City of *Glasgow* or other Place.

VI. *Rate levied not to exceed the Sum of One Penny in the Pound of Yearly Rent.*—*The Accounts of the Magistrates and Council, or the Board of any District or Parish, to be open to Inspection.*—The Amount of the Rate to be so levied for the Purposes of this Act in any Burgh, District, or Parish in any One Year shall not exceed the Sum of One Penny in the Pound of yearly Rent, and the Magistrates and Council of any Burgh, or the Board of any District or Parish, shall provide and keep Books in which shall be entered true and regular Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, to be called “The Public Libraries Account”; and such Books shall, without Fee or Reward, and at all reasonable Times, be open to the Inspection of every Person liable to be assessed by virtue of this Act, who respectively may, without paying for the same, take Copies of or make Extracts from such Books; and in case such Magistrates and Council of any Burgh, or Board of any District or Parish, or any of them respectively, or any of their respective Officers or Servants having the Custody of such Books, shall not permit the same to be inspected, or Copies or Extracts from the Accounts to

be made or taken, every Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, such Penalty to be recovered before the Sheriff or Justices of the Peace in like Manner as provided for the Recovery of Small Debts, and to be applied when recovered towards the Purposes of this Act.

VII. *Power to Council or Board to borrow on Mortgage or Bond.*—For carrying this Act into execution, the Magistrates and Council of any Burgh, or the Board of any District or Parish respectively, may from Time to Time borrow at Interest on the Security of a Mortgage or Bond of the Rates to be levied in pursuance of this Act, such sums of Money, to be repaid by yearly Instalments within a period not exceeding Thirty Years, as may be by them respectively required; and the Commissioners for carrying into execution the Act of the Ninth and Tenth *Victoria*, Chapter Eighty, may, with the Consent of the Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, from Time to Time advance and lend such Sums of Money.

VIII. *Provisions of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 17, as to Borrowing Powers, extended to this Act.*—The Clauses and Provisions of "The Companies Clauses Consolidation (*Scotland*) Act, 1845," with respect to the borrowing of Money on Mortgage or Bond, and the Accountability of Officers, and the Recovery of Damages and Penalties, so far as such Provisions may respectively be applicable to the Purposes of this Act, shall be held as incorporated with this Act.

IX. *Boundaries of Burghs, &c.*—The Boundaries of Burghs and Districts shall be the same as the Boun-

daries declared for such Burghs and Districts by and for the Purposes of the Acts of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Thirty-three, and Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and one, or any Local Police Act which may for the Time being be in force in any such Burghs or Districts.

X. *Lands, &c., may be Appropriated, Purchased, or Rented for the Purposes of this Act.*—The Magistrates and Council of any Burgh or the Board of any District or Parish, as the Case may be, may from Time to Time appropriate for the Purposes of this Act any Lands or Buildings vested in them, and also out of the Rates levied or Money borrowed as herein provided, purchase, feu, or rent any Land or any suitable Building, and may upon any Land so appropriated, rented, feued, or purchased, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries, Art Galleries, or Museums, or each respectively, and may alter or extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and repair and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply the same respectively with all requisite Furniture, Fittings, and Conveniences.

XI. *Certain Clauses of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 19, incorporated with this Act.*—All the Clauses and Provisions of the “Lands Clauses Consolidation Act (*Scotland*), 1845,” with respect to the Purchase of Lands by Agreement, and with respect to the Purchase Money or Compensation coming to Parties having limited Interests, or prevented from treating, or not making a Title, and also with respect to Conveyances of Lands, so far as the

same Clauses and Provisions respectively are applicable to the Cases contemplated by the last Section, shall be held as incorporated in this Act; and the Expression "the Special Act," used in the said Clauses and Provisions, shall be construed to mean this Act; and the Expression "the Promoters of the Undertaking," used in the same Clauses and Provisions, shall be construed to mean the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh or the Board of the District or Parish in question.

XII. *Lands, &c., may be Sold or Exchanged.*—The Magistrates and Council of any Burgh and the Board of any District or Parish may sell any Land, Buildings, or other Property better adapted for the Purposes, and may also sell or exchange any Books, Works of Art, or other Property of which there may be Duplicates; and the Monies to arise from such Sale or Exchange shall be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

XIII. *Property of Library, &c., vested in Magistrates, &c.*—The Lands and Buildings so to be appropriated, purchased, or rented, and all other Real or Personal Property whatever presented to or purchased for any Library, Art Gallery, or Museum established under this Act, shall, in the case of a Burgh, be vested in the Magistrates and Council, and in the Case of a District or Parish, in the Board.

XIV. *General Management to be vested in a Committee appointed by Magistrates and Councils of Burghs, and Boards of Districts or Parishes.*—The Magistrates and Council of any Burgh or the Board of any District or Parish where this Act has been adopted, shall, within One Month after its Adoption, and thereafter from

Year to Year, in the Case of a Burgh at the First Meeting after the Annual Election of Town Councillors, in the Case of a District at the First Meeting after the annual Election of Police Commissioners, and in the Case of a Parish at the First Meeting after the annual Meeting for the Election of representative Members of the Parochial Board, appoint a Committee, consisting of not more than Twenty Members, Half of whom shall be Magistrates and Members of the Council or Members of the Board respectively, and the remaining Half shall be chosen by the Council or Board from amongst the Householders not Members of the Council or Board within such Burgh, District, or Parish, as the Case may be, Three to be a Quorum; and such Committee so appointed shall have Power, under the Authority of the Magistrates and Council or Board, as the Case may be, to purchase Books, Newspapers, Reviews, Magazines, and other Periodicals, Statuary, Pictures, Engravings, Maps, and Specimens of Art and Science, for the Establishment, Increase, and Use of such Libraries, Art Galleries, and Museums, and to do all things necessary for keeping the same in a proper state of Preservation and Repair; and such Committee, subject as aforesaid, shall manage, regulate, and control such Libraries, Art Galleries, and Museums, and shall make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and Use of the same, and shall also have Power to appoint salaried Officers and Servants, to pay and dismiss them, and from Time to Time to provide the necessary Fuel, Lighting, and other Matters.

XV. *Meetings and Chairman of Committee.*—The

Committee appointed as aforesaid shall, in the Case of a Burgh or District, meet once in every Three Months, or oftener if necessary, and in the Case of a Parish as often as may be necessary, to determine as to any Business connected with such Libraries, Art Galleries, or Museums; and in the Case of a Burgh the Provost, in the Case of a District the senior Magistrate, and in the Case of a Parish the Chairman of the Parochial Board, shall be Chairman of such Committee, and such Chairman shall, in the case of an Equality of Votes, have a Casting Vote in addition to his Vote as an Individual; but in the Absence of such Chairman, the Meeting shall elect a Chairman who, for the Time being, shall exercise the Privileges of the Chairman appointed under this Act.

XVI. *When Meeting determine against Adoption of Act.*—If any Meeting called as aforesaid to determine as to the Adoption of this Act for any Burgh, District, or Parish, shall determine against the Adoption, no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be held for the Space of Two Years at least from the Time of holding the previous Meeting.

XVII. *Art Galleries or Museums may be added.*—Wherever a Public Library has been established under any Acts relating to Public Libraries or Museums, or shall hereafter be established under this Act, an Art Gallery or Museum, as the case may be, may at any Time be established in connection therewith, without any further Proceedings being taken under this Act.

XVIII. *Libraries, &c., to be Free.*—All Libraries, Art

Galleries, or Museums established under this Act shall be open to the Public free of all Charge.

XIX. *Short Title.*—In citing this Act for any Purpose whatever it shall be sufficient to use the Expression “The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1867.”

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT (SCOTLAND, 1867)
AMENDMENT ACT, 1871.

34 AND 35 VICTORIA, CAP. LIX.

An Act to amend “The Public Libraries (*Scotland*) Act, 1867,” and to give additional facilities to the Local Authorities entrusted with carrying the same into execution. ; [31st July, 1871.]

“WHEREAS it is expedient to amend ‘The Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1867,’ and to give additional facilities and powers to the local authorities entrusted with the control, management, and regulation of libraries, museums, and art galleries established under the powers and provisions of said Act, in order to render such libraries, museums, and art galleries of greater utility :” Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

I. 30 and 31 *Vict.*, c. 37, ss. 7, 8, *repealed*.—Sections seven and eight of the said “Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1867,” are hereby repealed.

II. *Parts of 10 and 11 Vict., c. 16, incorporated.*—The “Commissioners Clauses Act, 1847,” with respect to the following matters, that is to say, with respect to the liabilities of the Commissioners, and to legal proceedings by or against the Commissioners, and with respect to mortgages to be executed by the Commissioners, excepting sections eighty-four, eighty-six, and eighty-seven, shall, except where expressly varied by this Act, be incorporated with this Act.

III. *Interpretation of Terms.*—The several words and expressions to which by the “Commissioners Clauses Act, 1847,” partially incorporated with this Act, meanings are assigned, shall in this Act have the same respective meaning, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction: provided always, that in the last-recited Act the expression “the special Act” shall mean the first-recited Act and this Act, and the expression “the Commissioners” shall mean and include the magistrates and council in the case of a burgh, and the board in the case of a parish or district, and the committee appointed in terms of the first-recited Act, in discharge of their respective duties under the said first-recited Act and this Act. Section three of the Public Libraries Act (*Scotland*), 1867, shall be read as if the words “provost, or in his absence the senior magistrate for the time being,” were inserted instead of “chief or senior magistrate.”

IV. *Powers of Borrowing limited.*—The magistrates and council or the board, as the case may be, may, from time to time, borrow at interest on mortgage or bond,

on the security of the rates to be levied in pursuance of the first-recited Act and this Act for the purposes thereof, a sum or sums of money not exceeding the capital sum represented by one-fourth part of the library rate of one penny per pound authorized by the first-recited Act capitalized at the rate of twenty years' purchase of such sum.

V. *Sinking Fund*.—The magistrates and council or the board, as the case may be, are hereby required to set apart annually, as a sinking fund for the extinction of capital sums borrowed under the authority of this Act and the said first-recited Act, a sum equal to at least one-fiftieth part of the money so borrowed, and such sinking fund shall be from time to time applied for the redemption of mortgages created under the authority of this Act, and to no other purpose whatever, and shall be lodged in any of the banks in Scotland incorporated by Act of Parliament or Royal Charter, or invested in Government Securities, or lent out at interest in the name and at the discretion of the magistrates and council or the board, as the case may be, until the same be applied for the purposes before specified.

VI. *Estimates to be made up*.—The committee shall, in the month of April in every year, make up, or cause to be made up, an estimate of the sums required in order to defray the interest of any money borrowed, the payment of the sinking fund, and the expense of maintaining and managing all libraries, art galleries, or museums under their control, for the year after Whitsunday then next to come, and for the purpose of purchasing the articles or things authorized to be

purchased by the first-recited Act, for such libraries, art galleries, or museums, and shall report the same to the magistrates and council in the case of a burgh, or to the board in the case of a parish, for their consideration and approval.

VII. *Annual Expenditure to be raised by Assessment not exceeding One Penny per Pound.*—The magistrates and council or board, as the case may be, are hereby empowered and required to levy and assess for the purposes of the first-recited Act and this Act a rate not exceeding the sum of one penny in the pound of the yearly rental of such burgh or district, to cover the sum necessary for the purpose of defraying the interest of any money borrowed, and the payment of the sinking fund, together with such sum or sums as they shall fix as the proper and necessary expenses of maintaining and managing all such libraries, art galleries, or museums; and the magistrates and council or board, as the case may be, are also hereby empowered to levy and assess such sum as may be necessary for the purchase of the articles or things authorized to be purchased by the first-recited Act for such libraries, art galleries, or museums: provided always, that the rates so to be levied and assessed shall not exceed the rate authorized by the first-recited Act.

VIII. *Accounts to be audited and published annually.*—The magistrates and council in the case of a burgh, and the board in the case of a district, shall cause the accounts of their receipts, payments, and liabilities with reference to the execution of the first-recited Act and this Act to be annually audited by one or more

competent auditors not being members of the committee, and which yearly accounts, as soon as the same shall have been audited, shall be signed by two of the magistrates and council or two members of the board, as the case may be, and shall be printed, and inserted in one or more newspapers published or circulated in the burgh or district.

IX. *Power to make Bye-Laws.*—It shall be lawful for the committee, subject to the approval of the magistrates and council or board, as the case may be, to make bye-laws for regulating all or any matters and things whatsoever connected with the control, management, protection, and use of any property, article, or things vested in them or under their control, for the purposes of the first-recited Act or this Act, and to impose such penalties for breaches of such bye-laws, not exceeding five pounds for each offence, as may be considered expedient; and from time to time, as they shall think fit, to repeal, alter, vary, or re-enact any such bye-laws: provided always, that such bye-laws shall not be repugnant to the law of Scotland, and before being acted on shall be signed by a quorum of the committee, and approved of by the magistrates, council, or the board, and approved of and confirmed by the sheriff, and inserted weekly, for at least two weeks, in a newspaper published or circulated in the district; and all bye-laws so made, signed, approved of, confirmed, and published shall be observed by and binding on all parties concerned therein: provided also, that such bye-laws shall be so framed as to allow the judge before whom any penalty imposed thereby may be sought to be recovered to order

a part only of such penalty to be paid, if such judge shall think fit: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall preclude the magistrates and town council or board, as the case may be, from recovering the value of articles or things damaged, or the amount of the damage sustained, against all parties liable for the same.

X. Penalties and Forfeitures to be recovered by Action.

—All penalties and forfeitures exigible under this Act, and the Acts incorporated wholly or partially herewith, or under any bye-law made in pursuance thereof, may be recovered by an ordinary small debt action in the name of the clerk to the committee for the time being, before either the sheriff or justices of the district; and the same shall be payable to the committee, and shall, when recovered, be applied by them for the purposes of of this Act, and in any prosecution under this Act an excerpt from the books of the library committee, certified by the librarian or other proper officer, shall be held equivalent to the books of the library committee, and all entries in the books of the library committee, bearing that any book or books mentioned or referred to therein has or have been borrowed by the person complained against, shall be taken and received as evidence of the fact, and the *onus probandi* shall be thrown on the party complained against, and, if decree passes against said party, he shall be found liable in costs.

XI. Actions to be brought in the Name of the Clerk of the Committee.—All actions at the instance of the committee shall be brought in name of the clerk of committee, and in all actions against the committee it

shall be sufficient to call the clerk to the committee for the time being as defender, and service on him shall be sufficient service, and all actions brought by or against the clerk to the committee in his official character shall be continued by or against his successors in office without any action of transference.

XII. Mode of supplying Vacancies in the Committee in case of Resignation, Death, or Disability.—In the event of any vacancy occurring in the committee during their term of office by the resignation of any member of committee, the magistrates and council or board, as the case may be, may, at a meeting thereafter, elect a member of committee in place of the member so resigning, provided always that such member so resigning shall give at least fourteen days' previous notice of his intention so to resign to the clerk; and in the event of any vacancy occurring in the committee during their term of office by the disability or death of any member of committee, the committee shall intimate the same to the town clerk or clerk to the board, and the magistrate and council or the board, as the case may be, may, at a meeting thereafter, elect a member of committee in room and place of the member of committee who may have become disqualified or died: provided always, that no proceeding of the committee shall be invalidated or be illegal in consequence of there being any vacancy in the number of committee.

XIII. Power to lend out Books.—It shall be lawful for the committee, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, to lend out for the purpose of being read by the inhabitants of the district or burgh for which

they are constituted the books in the library, or which may be purchased for the library, or any such of them as they may consider proper.

XIV. *Power to make and issue Catalogues.*—The committee may compile and print catalogues of all articles and things in the libraries, art galleries, or museums, under their charge, and reports of their proceedings, and sell the same, the proceeds to be applied for the purposes of this Act.

XV. *Power to issue Books to certain Institutions.*—The committee may lend books for the use of the inmates of Industrial Schools, Training Ships, Reformatories, Barracks, and other similar institutions established for or in the district for which the library may be constituted.

XVI. *Short Title.*—This Act may be cited as “The Public Libraries Act (Scotland, 1867) Amendment Act, 1871.”

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT (1855) AMENDMENT ACT, 1871 [ENGLAND].

34 AND 35 VICTORIA, CAP. LXXI.

An Act to amend the “Public Libraries Act, 1855.”
[14 August, 1871.]

18 and 19 Vict., c. 70.—WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and extend the Public Libraries Act, 1855, hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent

of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

I. *Local Boards to put Principal Act into Execution.*—Every Local Board, under the Public Health Act, 1848, and the Local Government Act, 1858, or either of them, is empowered, in like manner as a board under any Improvement Act, to adopt and carry into execution the principal Act.

II. *Interpretation of Terms.*—For the purposes aforesaid the following words in the principal Act shall have the following extended significations : viz., the word “ board ” shall mean any such local board as aforesaid ; the words “ improvement rate ” shall mean the general district rate levied by any such board ; the word “ rate-payers ” shall mean all persons assessed to and paying such general district rate ; the word “ district ” shall mean the district in which such local board has any authority to levy a general district rate ; the term “ Improvement Act ” shall mean the Local Government Act, 1858.

III. *Section 15 of recited Act not to apply to Rates made by Local Boards.*—So much of Section fifteen of the principal Act as refers to the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, shall not apply to rates made by local boards under the principal Act ; but nothing herein contained shall enable local boards to levy or expend for the purposes of the principal Act any greater sum in any year than one penny in the pound.

IV. *Provision as to Borrowing by Local Boards for Purposes of Recited Act.*—For carrying into execution

the principal Act, every such local board may borrow upon mortgage of the general district rate, or any separate rate, to be levied under the principal Act; and such borrowing shall be effected in conformity with the provisions as to borrowing contained in the Local Government Act, 1858, and the Acts incorporated therewith, in lieu of the provisions as to borrowing contained in the principal Act.

V. *Not to apply to certain Districts.*—This Act shall not apply to any district the whole or any part of which is within any municipal borough, or within the jurisdiction of commissioners under any Improvement Act.

VI. *Short Title.*—This Act may be cited for all purposes as “The Public Libraries Act (1855) Amendment Act, 1871.”

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT (1871) AMENDMENT ACT, 1877 [ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND].

40 AND 41 VICTORIA, CAP. 54.

An Act to amend the “Public Libraries Acts.”

[14th August, 1877.]

WHEREAS by the Public Libraries Acts, 18 and 19 Victoria, c. 40, for Ireland; 29 and 30 Victoria, c. 114, for England; and 30 and 31 Victoria, c. 37, for Scotland, the mode by which the Act is to be adopted is prescribed to be by public meeting, and it has been

found that in many cases a public meeting is a most incorrect and unsatisfactory mode, and fails to indicate the general opinion of the ratepayers, and it is desirable to ascertain these opinions more correctly :

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

I. *Ratepayers' Opinions may be ascertained by Voting Papers.*—It shall be competent for the prescribed local authority in any place or community which has the power to adopt one of the above recited Acts, to ascertain the opinions of the majority of the ratepayers either by the prescribed public meeting or by the issue of a voting paper to each ratepayer, and the subsequent collection and scrutiny thereof; and any expense in connection with such voting papers shall be borne in the same way as the expense of a public meeting would be borne, and the decision of the majority so ascertained shall be equally binding.

II. *Ratepayers may stipulate for Modified Assessment.*—In addition to the simple vote "Yes" or "No" to the adoption of the Act, such voting paper may stipulate that its adoption shall be subject to a limitation to some lower rate of assessment than the maximum allowed by Act of Parliament in force at the time; and such lower limit, if once adopted, shall not be subsequently altered except by public vote similarly taken.

III. *Definition.*—"Ratepayer" shall mean every in-

habitant who would have to pay the Free Library assessment in event of the Act being adopted.

IV. *Short Title*.—This Act may be cited as “The Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1877.”

MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY ACT (1861) [ENGLAND AND IRELAND].

24TH AND 25TH VICTORIA, CAP. 97, § 39.

WHOEVER shall unlawfully and maliciously destroy or damage any Book, Manuscript, Picture, Print, Statue, Bust or Vase, or any other Article or Thing kept for the purposes of Art, Science, or Literature, or as an Object of Curiosity, in any Museum, Gallery, Cabinet, Library, or other Repository, which Museum, Gallery, Cabinet, Library, or other Repository is either at all Times or from Time to Time open for the Admission of the Public or of any considerable Number of Persons to view the same, either by the Permission of the Proprietor thereof or by the Payment of Money before entering the same, or any Picture, Statue, Monument, or other Memorial of the Dead, Painted Glass, or other Ornament or Work of Art, in any Church, Chapel, Meeting House, or other Place of Divine Worship, or in any Building belonging to the Queen, or to any County, Riding, Division, City, Borough, Poor-Law Union, Parish, or Place, or to any University, or College, or Hall of any University, or to any Inn of Court, or in any Street, Square, Churchyard, Burial Ground, Public Garden or Ground, or any Statue or

Monument exposed to Public View, or any Ornament, Railing, or Fence surrounding such Statue or Monument, shall be guilty of a Misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any Term not exceeding Six Months, with or without Hard Labour, and, if a Male under the Age of Sixteen Years, with or without Whipping: provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the Right of any Person to recover, by Action at Law, Damages for the Injury so committed.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1884.

47TH AND 48TH VICTORIA, CAP. 37.

An Act to amend the Public Libraries Acts.

[28th July, 1884.]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. *Power of Council Board, &c., to accept Parliamentary Grant.*—WHEREAS doubts have arisen as to whether authorities acting under the Public Libraries Acts have power to fulfil the conditions required for a Parliamentary grant in aid of the establishment of a school of science and art, and it is expedient to remove such doubts: It is therefore hereby declared and enacted that—

Where any authority acting under the Public Libraries Acts accepts a grant out of moneys provided by Parliament from any Committee of the Privy Council on Education towards the purchase of the site, or the erection, enlargement, or repair of any school for science and art, or school for science, or school for art, or of the residence of any teacher in such school, or towards the furnishing of any such school, such authority shall have power to accept such grant upon the conditions prescribed for the acceptance thereof by the said Committee, and to execute such instruments as may be required by the said Committee for carrying into effect such conditions, and upon payment of the grant shall, together with their successors, be bound by such conditions and instrument, and have power and be bound to fulfil and observe the same.

II. *Explanation of 18 & 19 Vict., c. 70, s. 18 ; 18 & 19 Vict., c. 70, s. 9 ; and 30 & 31 Vict., c. 37, s. 10.*—Whereas section eighteen of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, as regards England, and section nine of the Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, as regards Ireland, provide for the erection of buildings “suitable for public libraries, or museums, or both, or for schools for science or art” :

And whereas section ten of the Public Libraries Act (Scotland), 1867, provides for the erection of buildings “suitable for public libraries, art galleries, or museums, or each respectively,” and doubts are entertained as to the meaning of those provisions: Now, therefore, it is hereby declared and enacted that—

Buildings may under the said sections be erected for public libraries, public museums, schools for science, art galleries, and schools for art, or for any one or more of those objects. .

III. *Power to establish Library, Museum, or School for Science or Art in connection with any of the others of them.*—(1.) Where any of the following institutions, namely, a public museum, a public library, a school for science and art, a school for science, a school for art, or an art gallery has been established either before or after the passing of this Act under the Public Libraries Acts, or any of them, there may at any time be established in connection therewith any other of the said institutions without any further proceedings being taken under the said Acts.

(2.) Section ten of the Public Libraries Amendment Act (England and Scotland), 1866, and section seventeen of the Public Libraries Act (Scotland), 1867, are hereby repealed, without prejudice to anything done under those sections.

IV. *Definitions.*—In this Act,—

The expression “Public Libraries Acts” means, as respects England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, the Acts mentioned in the first, second, and third parts respectively of the Schedule to this Act.

The expression “authority acting under the Public Libraries Acts” means the council, board, magistrates, or commissioners acting in execution of the said Public Libraries Acts.

V. *Short Titles.*—This Act may be cited as the Public Libraries Act, 1884.

The Acts mentioned in the first part of the schedule to this Act may be cited together with this Act as the Public Libraries (England) Acts, 1855 to 1884.

The Acts mentioned in the second part of the schedule to this Act may be cited together with this Act as the Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts, 1867 to 1884.

The Acts mentioned in the third part of the schedule to this Act may be cited together with this Act as the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts, 1855 to 1884.

APPENDIX II.

RULES AND REGULATIONS SUITABLE FOR FREE LIBRARIES.

With Forms in Use, &c.

FREE LENDING LIBRARIES.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. The Chief Librarian shall have the general charge of the Libraries, and shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the books, and of all other property belonging thereto.

2. The Newsrooms shall be open to the Public, every day (Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday excepted), from Nine o'clock a.m. to Ten o'clock p.m., and the Library from Ten o'clock a.m. to Nine o'clock p.m.

3. No person shall be admitted who is in a state of intoxication; nor shall any audible conversation be permitted in the Rooms; nor shall any person be allowed to partake of refreshments therein. Any person who shall offend against these regulations, or shall be guilty of any misconduct, shall not be allowed to remain within the building.

4. No person shall be allowed to pass within the enclosure of the Libraries, or to take any book from the shelves, except by permission of the Librarian.

5. Persons enrolled as Burgesses of the Borough of _____ shall be entitled to borrow books on their own responsibility. Persons not so enrolled shall be required to obtain the signature of one Burgess to the following voucher, which must be renewed annually :

“I, the undersigned, being a Burgess of the Borough of _____, declare that I believe _____, occupation _____, age _____, of No. _____

_____, to be a person to whom books may be safely entrusted for perusal; and I hereby undertake to replace or to pay the value of any book, belonging to the Corporation of _____, which shall be lost or materially injured by the said Borrower.”

Any person having signed this engagement, who shall afterwards desire to withdraw from the same, must give notice thereof in writing to the Librarian, who will give a release as soon as he shall have ascertained that no loss has been incurred.

This voucher must be delivered to the Librarian three days before the first issue of books to the person recommended.

6. All books borrowed must be returned to the Libraries within the time specified on the respective covers, under a penalty of one penny for the whole or any portion of the first week, and one penny for each week or portion of a week afterwards.

7. The Librarian shall carefully examine, or cause to

be examined, each book returned, and if the same be found to have sustained any injury or damage, he shall require the person to whom the same was delivered, or his guarantor, to pay the amount of damage or injury done, or otherwise to procure a new copy of the book of equal value, and in the latter case such person shall be entitled to the damaged copy on depositing the new one.

8. All books borrowed from the Libraries must be returned, irrespective of the time allowed for reading, at the half-yearly dates specified on the printed labels at the beginning of each book ; Borrowers neglecting to comply with this regulation will risk the forfeiture of their privilege of borrowing books.

9. Borrowers leaving town, or ceasing to use the Libraries, are requested to return their tickets to the Librarian, in order to have them cancelled, otherwise they and their guarantors will be held responsible for any book taken out in their names.

10. Borrowers, when they change their residence, are required to hand in their ticket with their present address to the Librarian, otherwise they will lose their right of borrowing books.

11. Borrowers are cautioned against losing their tickets, as they will be held responsible for any book or books that may be taken out of the Libraries in their names.

12. No Borrower will be allowed to have more than one work at the same time.

13. No book can be renewed more than once, if required by another Borrower.

14. No Borrower will be allowed to make use of more than one of the Lending Libraries at the same time.

15. The Librarian shall have the power to refuse books to any Borrower who shall neglect to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Library; but any person so refused shall have liberty to appeal to the Library Committee.

16. That the Free Libraries Committee shall not make any dividend, gift, division, or bonus in money, unto or between any of its members.

By order.

Librarian.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

No person will be allowed to obtain any Book without signing a Reader's Ticket or form, and such signature shall be taken and considered to be an assent to the Rules and Regulations of the Library.

Readers giving a false name and address will be held responsible for the consequences.

Readers cannot obtain more than one work on the same Ticket, but other books can be obtained by filling up a form for each book.

H H

It is expressly forbidden to take out of the Reading Room any Book, Map, Manuscript, or other article belonging to the Library, or to write or make any marks upon the same.

Readers desirous of proposing Books for addition to the Library, or of making any suggestion as to its management, may do so by writing the same in a Suggestion Book, which is regularly submitted to the Committee for consideration.

No person will be admitted to the Library who is intoxicated, or in a dirty condition; nor will any conversation be permitted in the room.

No person is allowed to pass within the enclosure, except by special permission of the Librarian.

Persons under fourteen years of age are not admitted to the Reference Library, except for special purposes to be determined by the Librarian.

The costly Illustrated Works are issued only on written application to the Committee.

Newspapers having been cut, and Illustrated Works disfigured, are in future to be used on the large round Tables near the Desk. Copying is permitted, but not tracing, as this has resulted in damage to the Illustrations. Readers are particularly requested not to soil or injure the Illustrations by fingering or laying their hands on them.

The use of Ink for copying extracts, &c., is not permitted, as serious injury to Plates and Books has resulted therefrom.

FORM OF VOUCHER FOR GENERAL PUBLIC.

Books can be had out only by Persons Rated for, Resident in, or Employed in the Borough.
 This Voucher must be signed by a Burgess who is enrolled on the Burgess List of the Borough of _____, Inattention
 to this regulation will cause trouble and disappointment. By Order, _____, Chief Librarian.

FREE LIBRARIES.

I, the undersigned, being a Burgess of the Borough of _____, declare that I believe
 _____, occupation _____, to be a person to whom Books
 aged _____, of No. _____, may be safely entrusted for perusal; and I hereby undertake to replace or pay the value of any Book belonging to the
 CORPORATION OF _____, which shall be lost or materially injured by the said Borrower.

GUARANTOR'S NAME.	OCCUPATION.	ADDRESS.	WARD.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 18 ____

 I, _____, d return of Books daily, between the hours of TEN in the Morning and

Vouchers in due form are received at the Library at any time between the hours of TEN in the Morning and NINE in the Evening; and if on Examination they be found correct, Tickets will be issued on the FOURTH DAY after the receipt of the Vouchers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Borrowers are cautioned against losing their Ticket, as they and the Guarantors will be held responsible for any Book that may be taken out with such Ticket.

When the person who has signed this engagement shall desire to withdraw from it, he must give notice "thereof in writing to the Librarian, who will give a release as soon as he shall have ascertained that no liability has been incurred."

No. _____

FORM OF VOUCHER FOR BURGESSES OR RATEPAYERS.

FREE LIBRARIES.

LENDING LIBRARY,

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Signed, _____

Personal application must be made for the Ticket.

No. .

APPENDIX III.

COPY OF REQUISITION.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

[The Public Libraries Acts 1855 to 1885 inclusive.]

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament passed in the 18th and 19th years of Queen Victoria, chapter 70, intituled "The Public Libraries Act, 1855," which Act was amended by another Act passed in the 29th and 30th years of the reign of Queen Victoria, chapter 114, intituled "The Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1866," it is provided that "The Board of any District being a place within the limits of any Improvement Act, shall, upon the Requisition in writing of at least ten persons assessed to, and paying the Improvement Rate, appoint a time not less than ten days nor more than twenty days from the time of receiving such Requisition for a Public Meeting of the persons assessed to and paying such Rate, in order to determine whether these Acts shall be adopted for such District.

We, the undersigned, being persons assessed to and paying Rates to the Local Board of Health for the District or Township of _____, do hereby respectfully request you to call a Meeting of Persons assessed to and paying Rates to your Board, for the purpose of determining whether or not the above-mentioned Acts shall be adopted for such District, in manner provided by the said Acts.

APPENDIX IV.

COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED AT A MEETING OF RATE-
PAYERS HELD ON THE

“Proposed by Mr. , and seconded by Mr.
 , that ‘The Public Libraries Act, 1855,’ be
adopted for the District of , in the County
of , in pursuance of the Acts of Parliament in
that behalf.”

VOTING PAPER.

BOROUGH OF .

The Public Libraries Acts 1855 to 1885 inclusive.

[Name of town and date.]

To

,
Mayor or Chairman, &c.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Ratepayers, respectfully
ask you to issue voting papers to the Ratepayers of the
 , to ascertain whether it is the wish
of the Ratepayers that the Public Libraries Acts be
adopted.

[Then will follow the ten or more names of the
requisitionists.]

In accordance with the above requisition, I now ask you to record your vote on this paper, "Yes" or "No," to the question, Are you, or are you not, in favour of the Public Libraries Act being adopted in this borough?

Mayor.

Town Clerk.

(Answer.)

It is well to keep distinctly in mind that the utmost rate which can be levied is one penny in the pound per year. That is, a ratepayer assessed at £30 contributes 2s. 6d. per year, in four equal quarterly instalments of 7½d.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal Estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of _____, in the County of _____, the Sum of _____, free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Free Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as they may deem expedient; and I direct that the Receipt of the Town Clerk of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

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London Daily Chronicle, June 12, 1883.

A plain matter-of-fact narrative ; but one that will prove of essential service to anyone wishing to make a similar tour. No point seems to be overlooked, and the author touches on many phases of industrial life in America, as well as those of a holiday character.

Scotsman, June 26, 1883.

Mr. Greenwood's "Tour in the States and Canada," should be found of considerable use to those who propose to imitate his example, and spend six weeks in travelling through the Eastern States and Canada. Mr. Greenwood, by presenting this information in a condensed and convenient form, gives the intending traveller an opportunity of "posting himself up" beforehand, and has besides prepared tables of tariffs and distances that will be found of much use.

Nottingham Daily Guardian, June 22, 1883.

Contains a good deal of valuable information. The *raison d'être* of the little volume is to show business men with six weeks to spare that the time cannot be more profitably spent than in a visit to the New World, and this he well succeeds in doing.

Bristol Daily Times and Mirror, June 2, 1883.

This is the result of a "run over to the States" for six weeks, and the name of the author is a sufficient guarantee that while so running he has read much, or at any rate has succeeded in getting together a quantity of valuable and interesting information, for the benefit of those who may follow him. The New World, as he says, is naturally a source of great interest to most English people, but in the way of the many, who would like to see for themselves the state of things across the Atlantic, there are many obstacles, in the removal of which this little book materially assists.

Publisher's Circular, July 16, 1883.

It is a comprehensive and well-arranged little book, full of really useful matter.

North Cheshire Herald, June 2, 1883.

One of the most interesting publications we have perused for some time is on the above subject, from the pen of Mr. Thomas Greenwood. Our readers have from time to time had an opportunity of judging with what felicity Mr. Greenwood enlists their interest, and retains their attention until he has disposed of his subject. So it will be found in "A Tour in the States and Canada," being a practical guide to seeing the leading centres of those places in six weeks—an accomplishment plainly demonstrated by the author.

Bath Herald, June 16, 1883.

These are days of rapid movement, and the writer of this neat little volume undertakes to show his readers how to enjoy a six weeks' scamper through the States and Canada. He very carefully describes the hotel system of America, and the expenses a tourist will

be put to, the things to be seen in the various towns, and gives a number of hints which will be useful to the English visitor. He is quite right as to the interest and advantage of a trip to America, however brief, and his pages will do as much to smooth difficulties out of the way of the traveller as any volume we know.

Cook's Excursionist and Tourist Advertiser, July 2, 1883.

It is impossible to read the pages in Mr. Greenwood's book without being struck at the pleasant, easy style in which they are written, and, at the same time, at the care and the accuracy with which such important details as statistics are dealt with, where they come in the path of the writer. Altogether, those who contemplate taking a tour in the States will find this work an intelligent companion.

Literary World, July 6, 1883.

In this convenient little volume, the author endeavours to give practical and useful information to the intending and possible traveller.

Stratford and South Essex Advertiser, June 8, 1883.

In a sketch of a mere holiday-run over a vast tract of country we cannot expect a very profound study of the manners and customs of a people, but we may get a good deal of useful information conveyed in a readable style. In this respect Mr. Greenwood is decidedly successful.

Leamington Spa Courier, June 23, 1883.

This work is designed for tourists in the United States and Canada, and contains a large fund of information, on such subjects as prices, distances, routes, hotel and railway charges, which all persons visiting America for the first time will find exceedingly useful. So far as we are aware, much of the information here given was not previously accessible in a convenient form, and therefore the work merits special commendation. Most of the chief features of all the large towns and cities of America are described, and the scenery of the country on the chief railway routes is also touched upon. Altogether it is a very useful handbook, and intending visitors to America may consult it with advantage.

The British Trade Journal, June 1, 1883.

This is an intelligent record of a brief sojourn in Greater Britain. The author visited the leading cities in the States, kept his eyes and ears open, and gained a great deal of information, which he has put together in a compact form. The chapters dealing with the American manufacturing centres contain interesting matter.

The Warehouseman & Draper's Trade Journal, June 2, 1883.

In this little volume Mr. Greenwood has given the results of his experience during a brief holiday in the United States and Canada, and has done so in a form specially useful to those who may think of making a similar tour, as it contains a large amount of information presented in an easy style, and a very practical manner. The book is well worth reading by those who do not intend to cross the Atlantic.

The Country News and Chronicle (Stockport), June 8, 1883.

The work is written in a readable style, and contains in small compass a mass of interesting information for those who have not yet had a voyage across the Atlantic.

The Cabinet Maker, June 1, 1883.

A smart little volume It gives a most pleasant account of the States and Canada as they present themselves to a "man on pleasure bent," who, by the way also "had a frugal mind." Mr. Greenwood has in this volume treated of things not usually observed by the ordinary tourist, and his work is the more valuable in consequence.

The Field, July 14, 1883.

New York, Boston, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Louisville, St. Louis and Pittsburg, the Oil Regions, Richmond, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and several manufacturing centres are here in turn discussed in their superficial aspects, with advice on emigration, &c. The latter non-descriptive part will probably be found of some use to those who want to know everything before they start.

The Queen, July 7, 1883.

In a moderate-sized volume the writer narrates his experience in a recent "run over the States" giving his narrative that practical and suggestive turn which fits it to be taken in hand as a general guide by any who may be meditating the same trip. His observations on steamers, baggage, hotel life, railways, and kindred subjects are among the most useful features of the book, and he has instructive remarks to make concerning the principal cities and places visited or likely to be visited by the ordinary excursionist across the Atlantic.

The Colonies and India.

To a traveller who uses his eyes and exercises ordinary intelligence, as Mr. Greenwood evidently did, a run to the States is a matter of vast importance, for it gives opportunity for personal study of peoples and places, about which much that is wrong has been written, mixed with much that is right. We can only hope that some day, when the Canadian Pacific Railway is finished, Mr. Greenwood will tell us what there is to see on the way to New Westminster and Victoria, along the route of that railway.

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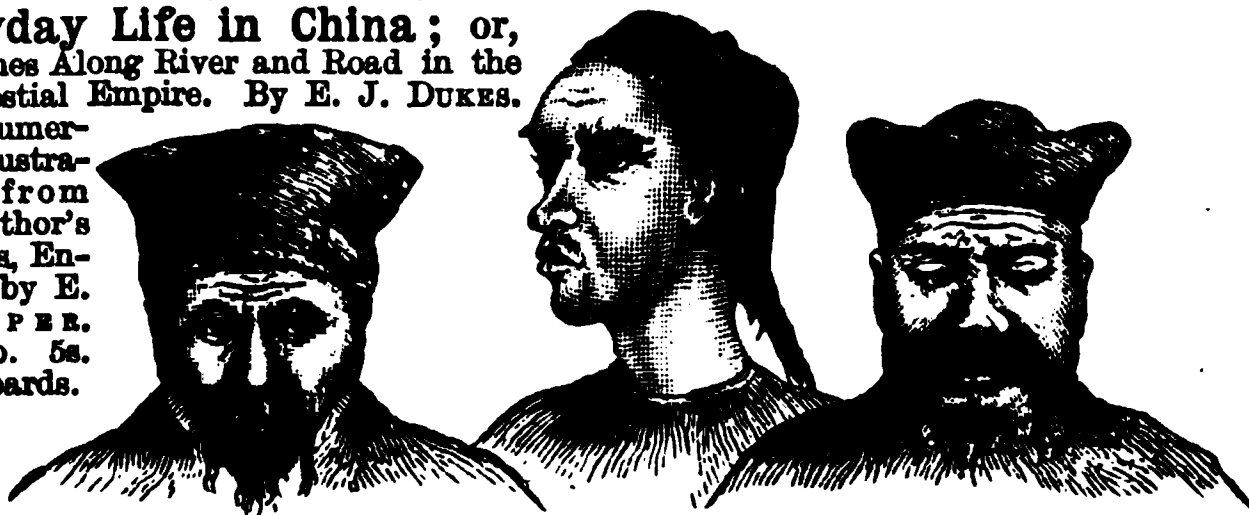
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